

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSFORMATION: TIER RANKINGS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I recently held a hearing on the importance of accountability in the annual Trafficking in Persons Report—the State Department's biggest opportunity of the year to prod countries to fight human trafficking with greater effect, greater efficiency and greater effort.

There are some twenty plus million people around the globe who live in sex or labor slavery today.

When one hears such a figure—over twenty million people—one's eyes begin to glaze over, as a number of such magnitude becomes an abstraction. There is a cynical saying, attributed to Soviet dictator Josef Stalin, that “the death of one man is a tragedy. The death of millions is a statistic.” Stalin knew that many would shrug their shoulders and avert their gaze.

But we must never allow such cynicism to obscure the fact that each of those twenty million persons is a human being with inherent, God-given dignity. Each one is a child that suffers from beatings and abuse, a woman raped, a man who labors in the field as a slave—all for the commercial gain of others.

The annual Trafficking in Persons Report, required by the landmark Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA)—legislation which I authored—ensures that countries making anti-trafficking efforts a priority are praised and supported, while countries that ignore the cries of the enslaved are justly shamed, and considered for sanctions.

The success of the TIP Report and rankings is beyond anything we could have hoped for. From presidential suites and the halls of parliaments, to police stations in remote corners of the world, this report focuses anti-trafficking work in 187 countries on the pivotal principles of prevention of trafficking, prosecution of the traffickers, and protection of the victims.

Each year the trafficking office at the Department of State evaluates whether a government of a country is fully compliant with the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking or, if not, whether the government is making significant efforts to do so. The record is laid bare for the world to see and summarized in a tier rankings narrative. Tier 1 countries fully meet the minimum standards. Tier 2 countries do not meet the minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to do so. Tier 3 countries do not meet the standards and are not making significant efforts to do so—and, indeed, may be subject to sanctions.

Over the last 14 years, more than 100 countries have enacted anti-trafficking laws, and many countries have taken other steps re-

quired to significantly raise their tier rankings. Some countries openly credit the TIP Report for their increased and effective anti-trafficking response and look to us for examples of how to do even better. Last year, for example, I was invited by the speaker of Peru's unicameral congress to address legislators on how to protect victims of trafficking, meeting also with prosecutors, members of a multi-agency task force, victims and those who provide for victims.

The Tier 2 Watch List was created in the 2003 TVPA reauthorization and I also authored to encourage good-faith anti-trafficking progress in a country that may have taken positive anti-trafficking steps late in the evaluation year. Unfortunately, some countries made a habit of last-minute efforts and failed to follow through year-after-year, effectively gaming the system.

To protect the integrity of the tier system and ensure it works properly to inspire progress, Congress in 2008 created an automatic downgrade for any country that had been on a Tier 2 Watch List for 2 years but had not taken significant effort enough to move up a tier.

The President can waive the automatic downgrade for an additional 2 years if he has certified “credible evidence” that the country has a written and sufficiently resourced plan that, if implemented, would constitute significant efforts to meet the minimum standards.

In 2013, the first test of the new system, China, Russia, and Uzbekistan ran out of waivers and moved to Tier 3, which accurately reflected their records.

In the 2014 reporting cycle, only Thailand and Malaysia were auto-downgraded, out of six countries. Russia and Uzbekistan retained their Tier 3 downgrades from the previous year—but China was upgraded from Tier 3 to the Tier 2 Watch List.

I am very concerned that China fooled the State Department, which seemed to believe that China was abolishing its re-education through labor camps rather than simply renaming the camps and continuing the practice. The Congressional-Executive Commission on China reported that in 2013, Chinese authorities increasingly used “other forms of arbitrary and administrative detention such as Legal Education Centers, Custody and Education Centers, ‘black jails,’ and compulsory drug detoxification centers.”

Moreover, the Commission reported that in November 2014, the Deputy Director of China's Ministry of Justice said at a press conference that the “vast majority” of China's [re-education through labor] facilities have been converted to compulsory drug detox centers. The China Commission believes that these compulsory drug detox centers force detainees to do labor, as do the Custody and Education Centers.

If true—and I believe it is—then the Chinese government is directly involved in human trafficking and profiting from it.

The Chinese Government also continues, through its one-child birth limitation policy, to

decimate the female population, creating a vacuum for sex and bride trafficking in China as males confronted with a sentence of lifetime bachelorhood seek to obtain a mate.

And despite a much-ballyhooed November 2013 government announcement of a relaxation of the one-child policy that affects only a small subset of the population, this fig leaf will not do enough to correct the gender imbalance in China.

Last summer, a local official at the Mid-Year Family Planning Work Meeting in Chongqing municipality noted that “the intensity of family planning work has not diminished.” And the evidence of coercive enforcement continues to emerge.

The U.N. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, following its May 2014 review of China, noted that it was “seriously concerned about reported instances of the use of coercive measures, including forced abortion and forced sterilization, with a view to limiting births.”

This is unacceptable.

Approximately 40 million women and girls are missing from the population—and China's birth limitation policy continues to increase that number—making China a regional magnet for sex and bride trafficking of women from neighboring countries such as Burma, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, and North Korea.

Indeed, an estimated 90 percent of North Korean women seeking asylum in China are trafficked as brides. And yet China does not take responsibility for the government-made disaster and provide these women with aid. Rather, China denies these women refugee status and sends them back to punishment in North Korea—punishments that far too often include execution.

Yet we gave China a pass, turning our backs on these suffering women.

But Asia is not the only place where there are victims of trafficking. The hearing also looked at three African countries that must be automatically downgraded unless they significantly improved efforts to fight human trafficking in 2014: Burundi, Comoros, and Angola.

The shared tragedy of these countries is that it is their children who are being trafficked. Chinese nationals in Angola exploit the Angolan children in construction, rice farming, and brick making.

In Comoros, poor families place their children with wealthy relatives, who then exploit them in domestic servitude.

Similarly, in Burundi, family members sometimes profit from the prostitution of children with tourists or, according to the State Department, “teachers, police officers, and gendarme, military and prison officials.”

In 2013, as automatic downgrade loomed, the President of Comoros finally admitted his country had a trafficking issue and the National Assembly changed the penal code. Angola and Burundi have also amended their penal codes while on the Watch List.

Aggressive implementation of these anti-trafficking laws would keep them off Tier 3, as

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

well as protect children from trafficking. I earnestly hope implementation has been a priority.

The Southeast Asia region continues to struggle with particularly acute and entrenched human trafficking. Thailand and Malaysia were downgraded to Tier 3 last year. Burma must receive a presidential waiver this year to avoid Tier 3.

One of the key drivers of intense human trafficking in the region is the vulnerability and desperation of the Muslim minority Rohingya people. Squalid living conditions in displacement camps, discrimination, child limitation, and violence are pushing the Rohingya out of Buddhist-dominated Burma into the hands of human traffickers who claim to have jobs for them in Muslim-majority Malaysia.

However, according to reports by Reuters last year, many Rohingya never make it to Malaysia, and instead end up in tropical gulags in the jungles of Thailand, where they are held for ransom. Many die from abuse and disease. Those who cannot pay the ransom are sold into sex slavery or forced labor, often in the fishing industry.

Thai General Prayuth Chan-ocha has vowed to crack down on any Thai authorities involved and to bring an end to the practice. While we have seen an impressive number and variety of anti-trafficking efforts in Thailand during the last year—including a new law in March that heightened penalties to life imprisonment for traffickers—prosecutions have significantly diminished in the last year. Prosecutions regarding trafficking of Rohingya migrants seem particularly low.

Nevertheless, over the last year, Thailand has taken concrete steps to register nearly 100,000 migrants, amend laws related to the fishing sector, raise the minimum age for labor at sea to 18 years old, set mandatory rest periods and employment contract requirements, and inspect hundreds of boats. And we also need to look at ourselves, and ask too whether we are complicit in abetting trafficking, perhaps unwittingly.

Last month, for example, the Associated Press documented Thai boats picking up seafood in Indonesia caught by Burmese slaves who, when not at sea, are kept in cages on remote Indonesian islands. The seafood was taken back to Thai ports and processed by the company that owns Chicken of the Sea. Much of the tainted seafood may have entered the supply chain to reach the shelves of American grocery stores and, through vendors such as Sysco, have landed on the plates of our service men and women.

There are nevertheless success stories, and Thailand has been a stalwart partner with the United States in fighting the sex tourism that drives sex trafficking. The Philippines also has worked with us in fighting sex tourists and helping the victims of trafficking—indeed, one of the witnesses we will hear from is a priest whose faith-based organization has helped thousands heal from the horrors of human trafficking.

Finally, a word to those who think that our TIP report embarrasses allies and undercuts our efforts to cultivate friendly ties around the globe.

I will never forget two of our closest allies, Israel and South Korea, at one point were both on Tier 3, the worst rank. I remember meeting with their Ambassadors who had files demonstrating to all of us and anyone who

would listen the measures they were taking to mitigate this terrible crime. And both of those countries got off Tier 3 when they backed words with substantive action.

Rather than alienating them, the exercise underscored that friends watch out for each other, and that we must call upon our friends to live up to the high ideals they profess. Ultimately, countries that do live up to their ideals show they value and treasure their citizens—their greatest resource—and in the long run will benefit the most.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, due to an event with the President in my home state, I was unable to vote during Roll Call 154, the motion on ordering the previous question for the rule H. Res. 200, as well as Roll Call 155, passage of H. Res. 200.

I was also unable to vote on Roll Call 156, final passage of H.R. 1562, the Contracting and Tax Accountability Act, as well as Roll Call 157, final passage of H.R. 1563, the Federal Employee Tax Accountability Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted against the motion ordering the previous question on the rule H. Res. 200 and against final passage of the rule. Also, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 1562 and opposed H.R. 1563.

#### IN HONOR OF CRYSTAL BERTHEAU

#### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the House's attention the outstanding public service work of Crystal Bertheau on the occasion of her retirement from the Santa Cruz County Elections Department following a long and distinguished career.

In Ms. Bertheau's professional career, she embodied the fundamental principal that should guide American democracy across our great nation: that every voter should have easy access to the ballot and that every vote cast should be counted. It is an example that stands as a beacon even now in the 21st Century.

Crystal started her professional career in San Mateo County in 1972 where she and her co-workers created an annual program for Court Room Clerks at Stanford University. From 1981 to 1996, Crystal worked for Judge Clarence B. Knight. In 1996, Crystal transferred to the San Mateo County Elections Department. In 1997, she and her husband, David, moved to Scotts Valley, California. In 1998, the Santa Cruz County Elections Department hired her as the poll worker training and recruitment coordinator for the county. She was instrumental in launching and implementing the county Inspector Hotline, a dedicated phone number for poll workers to call in questions on Election Day.

In 2002, she took on the duties of Program Coordinator in charge of candidate filing. Crys-

tal quickly became known as the knowledgeable and friendly face who helped thousands of candidates navigate their way through the candidate filing process. Crystal also served as a Passport Acceptance Agent and a Deputy Commissioner for Civil Marriage for the County of Santa Cruz. She and her co-workers earned the 2013 Employee Recognition Gold Award for successfully facilitating the start of same sex marriages in Santa Cruz County.

Crystal's passion for elections and community service is unsurpassed. She has worked 20 hour Election Days, spent many weekends serving her community on Passport Saturdays and Weekend Voting, and conducted weddings near the midnight hour on Valentine's Day. Crystal has enjoyed sailing in the San Francisco Bay, has run 2 half marathons and dozens of 10ks, has backpacked in the High Sierras, and enjoyed scuba diving in Cozumel, Bonaire, and the Monterey Bay. In retirement Crystal hopes to continue to enjoy her hobbies of golf, gardening, hiking, playing the piano, reading, and spending time with family and friends, especially her son Mark.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I speak on behalf of the entire House in thanking Crystal for her 42 years of public service and outstanding leadership, showing one person can impact the lives of many. I wish her the very best in the next chapter of her life.

#### TRIBUTE TO DEPUTY CHIEF DAVID C. BARRETTE

#### HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of First Deputy Chief David C. Barrette. Deputy Chief Barrette served our nation in the United States Air Force and, subsequently, has bravely served the 24th District of New York for over 40 years in the Syracuse Police Department. As Deputy Chief Barrette retires from the Syracuse Police Department, it is my honor to recognize such a distinguished citizen and civil servant.

Deputy Chief Barrette served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War as a Staff Sergeant from 1969 to 1973. Following his military career, Deputy Chief Barrette began his career with the Syracuse Police Department. For 41 years, he has progressed through the ranks of the Syracuse Police Department, serving as a Police Officer, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Captain before being promoted to Deputy Chief of the Uniform Bureau in 2005 and Deputy Chief of Police in 2009.

Throughout his career, Deputy Chief Barrette has received numerous commendations for his service to our nation and the 24th District, including: a Certificate of Appreciation from the Viet Nam Veterans of America, CNY Chapter #103, the Officer Appreciation Award from the Neighborhood Watch Groups of Syracuse, an Outstanding Partner Award from the SU Community Partnership, a Certificate of Appreciation from the Southeast University Neighborhood Association and the Eastside Neighbors in Partnership, and an Outstanding Achievement Award from Syracuse United Neighbors.

Deputy Chief Barrette has remained an active member of the Syracuse community while on and off-duty through his role as a Member of the Board of Directors of the Syracuse Model Neighborhood Corporation, President of the Syracuse Police Scholarship Foundation Board of Directors, and Vice-Chair of the Onondaga County Chiefs of Police Association.

Deputy Chief Barrette holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Relations and Human Resource Management from LeMoyne College and a Master of Criminal Justice degree from the University of Alabama. He is supported by his wife, Patty.

Deputy Chief Barrette has proudly served our nation and Central New York, reflecting the courage and loyalty ubiquitous in Central New York law enforcement. I wish Deputy Chief Barrette well in his retirement and would like to thank him for his years of hard work, dedication, and service to our community.

HONORING EDWARD GARDNER  
HALEY

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate my friend, Mr. Ed Haley for an outstanding career of public service that has spanned over 30 years, encompassed numerous roles, and helped countless lives. An advisor to the powerful, a mentor to the many, and smiling face for those he served, Ed Haley's life has exemplified what it means to be a servant leader.

Following graduation from Millington Central High School, Mr. Haley joined the Air Force and served as a radioman for four years before he was honorably discharged. Then, he embarked on a 15 year career with the DuPont Company before joining the Shelby County Government in 1973. During the next 27 years, Mr. Haley worked for the citizens of Shelby County, Tennessee as the Assistant Director of Safety, the Administrator for the Shelby County Automotive Facility, and ultimately the Director of the Shelby County Road Department. While most people would be looking forward to retirement, Mr. Haley energetically signed on to help the small town of Arlington as Town Superintendent and managed Arlington's explosive growth over the last 15 years until his well-deserved retirement on March 1, 2015.

Of course, knowing only Mr. Haley's public work contributions would be to miss the massive impact he has had through volunteer service during his tenure. Growing up in Millington, Tennessee and returning after the Air Force, Mr. Haley won a seat to the Board of Alderman in 1972. Throughout the 1970's and 80's he was active in the Jaycees, Optimist Club, Rotary Club, PTSA, Scottish Rite, and Gideon International. In 1990, he was elected to the Tennessee General Assembly as a State Representative serving north Shelby County until 1998.

In Matthew's Parable of the Talents, each servant has been entrusted with resources for which they are held accountable. Mr. Haley has used his life's work for the betterment of others and truly deserves to hear his Master say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

On behalf of Tennessee's 8th Congressional District, I would like to congratulate and wish the best of luck in retirement and for all future endeavors to the family and friends of Mr. Ed Haley.

HONORING MR. H. DWIGHT WEAVER  
FOR RECEIVING A MISSOURI  
HUMANITIES AWARD

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine, Mr. H. Dwight Weaver. Mr. Weaver will be receiving one of the Missouri Humanities Awards, Exemplary Community Achievement—Lake of the Ozarks Preservation, on Saturday, May 2, 2015. Mr. Weaver has contributed to the betterment of the state of Missouri for many years.

H. Dwight Weaver worked for 15 years at the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. During his time there, he wrote about Missouri's air, land and water quality resources and these writings aided in policy-making. Mr. Weaver was awarded with two regional and two national awards for his article contributions to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources magazine, Missouri Resources.

During his 50 years living in the Lake of the Ozarks region, Mr. Weaver, has developed a passion for Missouri caves and a profound interest in the history of that region. From his time exploring and working at caves, he gained the knowledge to publish six books. H. Dwight Weaver treasures the various places of mystery and beauty that caves offer.

For a period of 40 years, H. Dwight Weaver has assembled a rare collection of vintage images and memorabilia that is reflective of the cultural heritage of the Lake of the Ozarks region. This collection has contributed to his ability to publish seven books and ultimately be the most prolific and best-selling author of the Lake of the Ozarks. Mr. Weaver contributes his time to the Miller and Camden County historical societies and serves as a source of historical information for anyone who requests information about the Lake of the Ozarks region.

I ask you in joining me in recognizing Mr. H. Dwight Weaver on receiving this award for his dedication to the Lake of the Ozarks region and the entire state of Missouri!

HONORING PEOPLES' SELF-HELP  
HOUSING

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Peoples' Self-Help Housing, which has served my constituents on the Central Coast of California since its incorporation on August 6, 1970. Since its inception Peoples' Self-Help Housing has provided vital affordable housing and self-sufficiency programs for low-income families, seniors, and other special needs groups in our local community.

Over the past 45 years, Peoples' Self-Help Housing has developed nearly 1,600 affordable rental units at 45 properties throughout San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties.

Their home building program utilizes a collaborative group method known as "sweat equity" to build homes for limited income families. This valuable program has resulted in over 1,200 new homes constructed by individuals as owner-builders under the supervision of Peoples' Self-Help Housing.

Furthermore, Peoples' Self-Help Housing provides safe and attractive shelter for 4,400 residents throughout the Tri-Counties. The organization has also received numerous national, state and local awards in recognition of their significant contributions to revitalizing our neighborhoods and communities, ensuring stable housing for veterans and those who were formerly homeless, and for their innovative work in educating our youth population.

I congratulate and offer my sincerest thanks to Peoples' Self-Help Housing for 45 years of successfully providing affordable housing and vital community services to the people of the Central Coast.

COMMEMORATING THE 67TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF ISRAEL'S INDE-  
PENDENCE

HON. KATHLEEN M. RICE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 67th anniversary of Israel's independence. On this day, Yom Ha'atzmaut, we celebrate Israel's establishment as a sovereign state and as a homeland for the Jewish people.

Rising from the ashes of the Holocaust, Israel has come to embody the true meaning of perseverance and resilience. Since its declaration of independence in 1948, Israel has overcome seemingly insurmountable challenges, defending itself time and again against enemies seeking to destroy it. Today, Israel stands proudly alongside the world's most developed nations and as the Middle East's sole true democracy—one rooted in equality and freedom of speech and religion.

However, this prosperity has come at a high price, as over 20,000 brave Israeli men and women have given their lives in service to their country. That is why this week we also observe Yom Hazikaron, to pay tribute to the Israeli service members who made the ultimate sacrifice and to thousands of Israeli civilians who lost their lives in senseless acts of terror.

Sadly, in the post-9/11 world, the United States has also grown familiar with the threat of terrorism and we have watched our own men and women give their lives to defeat it. This common struggle has created yet another bond between our nations, as we both understand the indiscriminant, unjustifiable evil of terrorism, the irreparable pain it causes, and the swift, unequivocal response necessary to destroy it.

So today, we celebrate more than just 67 years of Israeli independence—we celebrate 67 years of strong and unwavering U.S.-Israeli relations.

I am proud to have visited Israel as a citizen of the United States, and I look forward to returning this summer as a member of Congress representing New York's fourth district, which is home to many people of the Jewish faith and has a special bond with the State of Israel and the Israeli people. During my time in Israel, I saw firsthand the prosperity that this great nation has built, as well as the fear that accompanies the daily threat of terrorism. On Israel's 67th year of independence, I want to congratulate the Israeli people and assure them that the U.S. will forever remain committed to their security, their survival and their prosperity.

#### THE AGING OUT CRISIS

### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to Autism Awareness Month and a huge yet largely invisible crisis that begs serious focus and a concerted national effort.

Every year, 50,000 young people on the autism spectrum transition into adulthood and are in the process of losing access to the vital educational, therapeutic and other services which enable them to live full, independent and successful lives.

Individuals with autism in the aging out generation find themselves entering into a system unprepared to meet their needs, and as a result face shrinking opportunities—and in many cases even regression.

As co-chairs of the Congressional Coalition on Autism Research and Education, Congressman MIKE DOYLE and I hosted a briefing called "Autism and the Aging Out Crisis." We brought together prominent researchers, parents of autistic children and self-advocates to discuss how to best respond to the needs of this growing demographic.

Jonathan Kratchman, a 17-year-old with Asperger's from New Jersey, spoke and stated that "many people with autism can be contributing, tax paying citizens of society. We just all need some level of funding for the support services that we were entitled to before graduation."

High school students are given services and supports to help prepare them for young adulthood. However, when they graduate, they face a support cliff—their services end and limited options remain available to continue development.

Many of us view high school graduation as a proud accomplishment—when hard work pays off and we become participants in an adult society. For adolescents on the autism spectrum like Jonathan, a diploma can represent the end of an era without a new beginning. The support that allowed them to continue their development and remain in the community is quickly and dramatically reduced. The challenges ahead can seem overwhelming.

According to a report released this week from Drexel University researcher Dr. Paul Shattuck—who participated in the briefing and whose work was prompted by my recent law—40% of autistic youths do not receive mental health therapy, speech counseling, case man-

agement, or even medical services related to their disability once they reach early adulthood.

26% of young adults on the autism spectrum received no services whatsoever to help them become employed, continue their education, or live more independently.

Further, the consequences of the cliff are tangible and profound. One third of young adults with autism did not continue their education or get a job in their early 20s, compared to less than 8% of young adults with other disabilities. Individuals with autism from low-income households were almost twice as likely not to continue their education or find meaningful employment.

The study found individuals with autism who transition into adulthood continue to struggle with communication, social skills, and decision making; confront behavioral challenges; and face co-morbid medical conditions and co-occurring mental health disorders related to their diagnosis. When the services which help them to address these challenges evaporate, not only do these individuals fail to progress in these areas, they are profoundly impacted by the loss of their routine, and many regress.

Mr. Speaker, autism does not end when a person reaches adulthood—and our commitment shouldn't either. Support should transition along with the individuals, bolstering the promise and realization of self-sufficiency.

My Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education, and Support Act of 2014 or the "Autism CARES Act" (Public Law 113–157) began this conversation by tasking multiple federal agencies with producing a comprehensive study on the special needs of autistic young adults and transitioning youth.

As researchers, parents, and advocates indicated in the briefing today, we need a holistic approach—one that looks at healthcare, housing, employment, education and public safety, among other needs. With the assistance of Chairmen FRED UPTON and JOE PITTS, last year I also requested a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report evaluating existing programs for effectiveness and making recommendations—in consultation with key stakeholders—on how the public and private sectors can advance initiatives to ensure a better transition.

The briefing is the first in a series the Caucus will host—building on my recent hearing "The Global Challenge of Autism"—to highlight the aging out crisis and explore remedial action. In addition to the importance of transition planning, there is evidence that with specialized support, employment is feasible even among individuals with high levels of impairment.

At my hearing, Jose Velasco, Vice President of Product Management at software giant SAP discussed their process of actively recruiting and hiring over 700 young adults on the autism spectrum. Management at SAP has recently told me that SAP's diligent young employees with autism are extraordinarily effective workers, and the corporation and the employees mutually benefit through this innovative alliance.

We have an obligation to help individuals with disabilities grow into adulthood. It is not only the right thing to do; it's a smart investment of taxpayer dollars that lower costs in the long run. The University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities estimates that: "Diverting just one young person into liv-

ing-wage employment could save an average of \$150,000 in SSI benefits over their lifetime. According to the Social Security Administration, transitioning just one half of one percent of current SSDI and SSI beneficiaries from benefits to self-sustaining employment would save \$3.5 billion in cash benefits over the work-life of those individuals."

By investing in and harnessing the potential of young adults with autism, we as a society will benefit from the unique skills, abilities, and perspectives of the aging out generation.

#### HONORING THE SIMON RIVERA EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL RAIDERS, THE 2015 6A BOYS SOCCER UIL STATE CHAMPIONS FROM BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS

### HON. FIELEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in honor of the Simon Rivera Early College High School Raiders—the 2015 6A Boys Soccer UIL State Champions from Brownsville, Texas. Their undefeated 28 game season proved that the Rio Grande Valley is home to the best soccer team in the State of Texas, and one of the best in the nation.

On Saturday, April 18, 2015, the Rivera Raiders beat Katy Cinco Ranch 2 to 0 in Georgetown, Texas. The win cemented their state title and brought a third statewide championship to the Brownsville Independent School District.

From the onset of the 2015 soccer season, Coach Salvador Garcia knew the Rivera Raiders were a "Team of Destiny," and would rally the support of an entire community. Coach Garcia's dedication, tenacity and years of experience would transform the Rivera Raiders into an undefeated powerhouse. He knew the hours of practice and commitment would yield only one outcome—a chance to prove what he already knew—that the Rivera Raiders would be the best soccer team in Texas.

Their historic championship season serves as a reminder that through teamwork and perseverance, we are all capable of achieving great things. The entire team of dedicated student-athletes set an example to be emulated. Their accomplishments have earned them a place in the history of Rivera High School, and the legacy of their state championship will live on through the precedent set by an undefeated season.

To all those who supported the players, your efforts were critical to the strength of the Rivera Raiders. You drove them to practices early in the morning and picked them up late into the evening. On game days, you prepared them the nutritious meals that would give them stamina. You helped them balance the demands of athletics, studies, and home life, and you instilled the values of humility, sportsmanship and perseverance.

To the faculty and staff at Rivera High School: teachers, assistant coaches, counselors, principals, support staff and personnel, thank you for all that you do to help our children accomplish their goals. Your commitment to educating all students is vital as we prepare the next generation of Americans to lead our nation in the future. Keep doing the excellent job you do.

The coaches and players who inspired a community and cemented their place in Rivera High School history by winning the 2015 6A Boys Soccer UIL State Championship are Head Coach Salvador Garcia; Assistant Coaches Jose Dominguez, Andres Macias and Jimmy Montalvo; Athletic Coordinator Tom Chavez; and Principal Aimee Garza-Limon.

The 2015 Rivera Raiders are Isidro Martinez (named Most Valuable Player); Eliezer Acero; Israel Acero; David Alexander; Erik A. Alonso; Carlos I. Alvarez; Jose R. Alvarez, Jr.; Francisco Cardenas, Jr.; Roberto C. Castro; Jorge A. Cordova; Abdon Cruz; Hernan A. Cruz; Ivan L. Cruz; Julian Espinoza; Marcos A. Hernandez, Jr.; Alexis Herrera; Lee R. Martinez; Roberto J. Melendez; Eliseo F. Ortiz; Edward M. Rojas; Eduardo A. Salinas; Sergio Soto-Ramirez; Jesus A. Torres II; Jose A. Muniz Velazquez; Jose M. Villanueva, Jr.; Alfredo G. Villarreal; and Jesus R. Zaragoza.

These students from Rivera High School represented the Brownsville Independent School District and the City of Brownsville in a manner that brings great credit and distinction to our region, and I am proud that they set an example for us all to follow. I wish each of them the best in their future endeavors, and I join with my colleagues in Congress in congratulating them on an undefeated championship season.

IN HONOR OF RAYMOND FRANK  
FRESCHI

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of a wonderful human being, good friend, and a great American. Raymond Frank Freschi died earlier this month at the age of 89. Ray will always be remembered for his very kind and generous heart and lively spirit. He loved his family, his many friends and his life. He will be greatly missed.

Ray was born in Clifton, New Jersey on June 16, 1925. Ray joined the Navy after graduating from high school and served as a medic-corpsman in Norfolk, Virginia and later aboard the U.S. *Wakefield* on a mission to China. Upon leaving the Navy, he attended Fairleigh Dickinson College in Rutherford, New Jersey and then transferred to University of Southern California. At USC he met his beloved wife Shirley, to whom he was married for 65 years—they are an example of a beautiful couple actively involved in their community. They had two children, daughter, Susan Elaine, who sadly preceded Ray in death, and son Raymond Sandy Freschi Jr. Ray and Shirley lived in La Canada-Flintridge in Southern California for 25 years before moving to Pebble Beach for the next 25 years, and then on to Carmel Valley Manor.

Everybody who knew Ray remarked on what a joyous person he was. He radiated happiness. He loved and respected people; always taking a genuine interest in others. Among other things, this helped him become a successful real estate entrepreneur. Ray studied and taught real estate, and quickly established, what was then, the largest real es-

tate office in Glendale, California. Among Ray's many accomplishments was purchasing the Chevy Chase country club in Glendale, and transforming it into a thriving successful golf community. He also developed a three story office building and condominium complex on the Golden State Freeway in Glendale. Ray even made a run for a House seat here in Congress. Later, during his retirement, Ray built several beautiful houses in Pebble Beach.

For many years, Ray had enjoyed spending time at his Green Glen ranch property in Gilroy. Ray's hobby was driving horses and collecting antique carriages and wagons. While in Pebble Beach, Ray could often be seen on the weekends driving a pair of his Welsh Cobbs, Concord & Taffy, or his French Percheron draft horses, Peter & Oliver with a newlywed couple in the carriage. His appearance brought joy to everyone, especially my daughter who has followed his professional love of horses.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in offering our condolences to Ray's friends and family, including his wife Shirley, son Sandy, grandchildren Peter McLean Freschi, Brooke Susan Freschi., sister Beverly Vivenetto, as well as many nieces and nephews.

#### TRIBUTE TO VICTIMS OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to submit these additional names of Armenians who lost their lives in the Armenian Genocide from 1915 to 1923. We will never forget their names and their stories and we will continue to speak the truth in the face of denial.

Shahinian Family, Melkonian Family, Nalbandian Family, Kharmandarian Family, Kasbarian Family, Eksoozian Family, Garabedian Family, Hairabedian Family, Etyemezian Family, Barsoumian Family, K. Vartanian, Levonian Family, Gugasian Family, A. Arakelian, the parents and family of Simon Samsonian, Arakelian Family, Harutune Dadourian and 41 members of Dadourian and Arsenian Families, Hunazant Alexanian and 49 members of Alexanian and Abkarian Families, First daughter of Goolezar Nercesian, Second daughter of Goolezar Nercesian, Rev. Fr. Mashdots Abajian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Adomian, Rev. Fr. Mesrob Afarian, Rev. Fr. Kiud Aghayekian, Rev. Fr. Sahag Aginian, Rev. Fr. Samuel Ajemian, Rev. Fr. Yeghish Alamasharian, Rev. Fr. Alexan Alexanian, Rev. Fr. Krikor Alexanian, Rev. Fr. Yeghish Amirkhaniyan, Rev. Fr. Hagop Ananian, Rev. Fr. Atam Anchigian, Rev. Fr. Tatoul Andnonian, Rev. Fr. Krikor Andonian, Rev. Fr. Kevork Apkarian, Rev. Fr. Housig Aprahamian, Rev. Fr. Melidos Aprahamian, Rev. Fr. Pilibbos Aprahamian, Rev. Fr. Pilibbos Arakelian, V. Rev. Fr. Garabed Arakelian, Archpriest Fr. Yeghish Aramian, Rev. Fr. Hamzasb Aramian, V. Rev. Fr. Gomidas Ardzrouni, Rev. Fr. Karekin Arekian, Rev. Fr. Yeznag Arevigian, Rev. Fr. Krikor Arisian, Rev. Fr. Arsen Armaghaniyan, Rev. Fr. Hemayag Aroyan, Rev. Fr. Arsen Arshagouni,

Rev. Fr. Avedis Arslanian, Rev. Fr. Vartan Arslanian, Rev. Fr. Yeremia Asarian, Rev. Fr. Parnapas Asdikian, Rev. Fr. Sarkis Asdourian, Rev. Fr. Nahabed Asdvadzadourian, Rev. Fr. Nerses Asdvadzadourian, Rev. Fr. Yeghish Asdvadzadourian, Rev. Fr. Yeghish Asdvadzadourian, Rev. Fr. Housig Ashjian, Rev. Fr. Madteos Atamian, V. Rev. Fr. Mikael Atchabahian, Rev. Fr. Inkndios Avakian, Rev. Fr. Keteon Avakian, Rev. Fr. Ashod Avedian, Rev. Fr. Kapriel Avedissian, Rev. Fr. Kasbar Avedissian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Ayyazian, Rev. Fr. Iravapar Ayyazian, Rev. Fr. Sarkis Ayyazian, Rev. Fr. Yeghish Ayyazian, Rev. Fr. Marouk Babian, Rev. Fr. Andon Baghdassarian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Baghdassarian, Rev. Fr. Haroutiun Baghdassarian, Rev. Fr. Khatchadour Baghdassarian, V. Rev. Fr. Sdepan Baghdassarian, Rev. Fr. Agepsimos Bahlavouni, Rev. Fr. Ghevont Bahlavouni, Rev. Fr. Sempad Bahlavouni, Rev. Fr. Vaghinag Bahlavouni, Rev. Fr. Pakrad Balemiyan, Rev. Fr. Nerses Balian, Rev. Fr. Movses Baligian, Rev. Fr. Yeghiazar Baligian, V. Rev. Fr. Yeghish Balouni, Rev. Fr. Shigha Bantekhdian, Rev. Fr. Ghevont Barigian, Rev. Fr. Keteon Baronian, Rev. Fr. Vahan Baronian, Rev. Fr. Nerses Bayian, Rev. Fr. Armenag Bedigian, Rev. Fr. Arshen Bedrossian, Rev. Fr. Asdvadzadour Bedrossian, Rev. Fr. Boghos Bedrossian, Rev. Fr. Megerditch Bedrossian, Rev. Fr. Vahan Bedrossian, V. Rev. Fr. Yeghiazar Bedrossian, Rev. Fr. Kapriel Begian, Rev. Fr. Taniel Begian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Behrigian, Rev. Fr. Magar Bekhozian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Benneyan, Rev. Fr. Hagop Berberian, Rev. Fr. Yeghish Beylerian, Rev. Fr. Kerovp Biberian, Bishop Sempad Saadetian, Rev. Fr. Arisdages Bodossian, Rev. Fr. Vahram Bodossian, Rev. Fr. Aram Boghossian, Rev. Fr. Vaghinag Bordigian, Rev. Fr. Krisdapor Bosdigian, V. Rev. Fr. Haroutiun Bouroujian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Boyajian, Rev. Fr. Krikor Boyajian, Rev. Fr. Mesrob Boyajian, V. Rev. Fr. Kevork Boyapian, Rev. Fr. Sahag Chamashourian, Rev. Fr. Nershabouh Charchian, Rev. Fr. Arsen Chekmezian, Rev. Fr. Souren Chengelian, Rev. Fr. Sdepanos Cheourigian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Chitchekeian, Rev. Fr. Toros Chitcjan, Rev. Fr. Vosgian Cholakian, V. Rev. Fr. Sahag Cholakian, Rev. Fr. Arshavir Choloyan, Rev. Fr. Garabed Daderian, Rev. Fr. Natan Dadian, Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Dadigian, Rev. Fr. Khoren Daghlilian, Rev. Fr. Ghevont Dayan, Rev. Fr. Neshan Der Antreassian, Rev. Fr. Bedros Der Bedrossian, Rev. Fr. Haroutiun Der Bedrossian, Rev. Fr. Hmayag Der Bedrossian, Rev. Fr. Melkon Der Bedrossian, Rev. Fr. Boghos Der Boghossian, Rev. Fr. Moushegh Der Boghossian, Rev. Fr. Yeremia Der Boghossian, Rev. Fr. Gorun Der Garabedian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Der Garabedian, Rev. Fr. Hamzasb Der Garabedian, Rev. Fr. Haroutiun Der Garabedian, Rev. Fr. Kevork Der Garabedian, Rev. Fr. Kevork Der Garabedian, Rev. Fr. Khoren Der Garabedian, Rev. Fr. Khosrov Der Garabedian, Rev. Fr. Tatoul Der Garabedian, Rev. Fr. Zareh Der Garabedian, Archpriest Ghevont Der Ghevontian, Rev. Fr. Gournelios Der Gureghian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Der Hagopian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Der Hagopian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Der Hagopian, Rev. Fr. Khatchadour Der Hagopian, Rev. Fr. Nerses Der Hagopian, Rev. Fr. Zenop Der Hagopian, Rev. Fr. Hamzasb Der Hamzasbian, Rev. Fr. Arisdages Der

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 Haroutiunian, Rev. Fr. Arsen Der Housigian,  
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 Apraham Der Hovhannessian, Rev. Fr. Atanas  
 Der Hovhannessian, Rev. Fr. Boghos  
 Der Hovhannessian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Der  
 Hovhannessian, Rev. Fr. Gosdantianos Der  
 Hovhannessian, Rev. Fr. Hovasap Der  
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 Hovhannessian, Rev. Fr. Pilibbos Der  
 Hovhannessian, V. Rev. Fr. Magar Der  
 Hovhannessian, V. Rev. Fr. Sdepanos Der  
 Hovhannessian, Rev. Fr. Sahag Der  
 Hovsepiian, Rev. Fr. Arakel Der Katchian, Rev.  
 Fr. Anania Der Kevorkian, Rev. Fr. Boghos  
 Der Kevorkian, Rev. Fr. Kevork Der  
 Kevorkian, Rev. Fr. Megerditch Der Kevorkian,  
 Rev. Fr. Yeznig Der Kevorkian, Rev. Fr. Arsen  
 Der Khatchadourian, Rev. Fr. Khatchadour  
 Der Khatchadourian, Rev. Fr. Vartan Der  
 Khatchadourian, Rev. Fr. Sahag Der Khatian,  
 V. Rev. Fr. Bbag Der Khorenian, Rev. Fr.  
 Hagop Der Krikorian, Rev. Fr. Karekin Der  
 Krikorian, Rev. Fr. Krikor Der Krikorian, Rev.  
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 Der Madteossian, Rev. Fr. Ashod Der  
 Manuelian, Rev. Fr. Kerovpe Der Manuelian,  
 Rev. Fr. Krikor Der Manuelian, Rev. Fr.  
 Haroutiun Der Mardirossian, Rev. Fr.  
 Hovhannes Der Mardirossian, Rev. Fr. Papken  
 Der Mardirossian, Rev. Fr. Margos Der  
 Margossian, Rev. Fr. Sahag Der Margossian,  
 Rev. Fr. Garabed Der Markarian, Rev. Fr.  
 Ghevont Der Markarian, Rev. Fr. Khatchadour  
 Der Markarian, Rev. Fr. Bedros Der  
 Megerditchian, Rev. Fr. Boghos Der  
 Megerditchian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Der  
 Megerditchian, Rev. Fr. Kalousd Der  
 Megerditchian, Rev. Fr. Megerditch Der  
 Megerditchian, Rev. Fr. Parnag Der  
 Megerditchian, Rev. Fr. Mekhitar Der  
 Mekhitarian, Rev. Fr. Bbag Der Melidossian,  
 Rev. Fr. Haroutiun Der Melkonian, Rev. Fr.  
 Samuel Der Mesrobian, Rev. Fr. Avedis Der  
 Mikaelian, Rev. Fr. Kapriel Der Mikaelian,  
 Rev. Fr. Moushegh Der Mousheghian, Movses  
 Der Movsessian, Movses Der Movsessian,  
 Rev. Fr. Sahag Der Sahagian, Rev. Fr.  
 Aharon Der Sarkissian, Rev. Fr. Knel Der  
 Sarkissian, Rev. Fr. Sarkis Der Sarkissian,  
 Rev. Fr. Sarkis Der Sarkissian, Rev. Fr. Sarkis  
 Der Sarkissian, V. Rev. Fr. Nerses Der  
 Sarkissian, Rev. Fr. Bedros Der Sdepanian.

#### ROME CITY HALL 100TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. TOM GRAVES

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the 100th Anniversary of the City Hall in Rome, Georgia.

Over a century ago, leaders of this fine community had a vision for the city to build a municipal building not like many of its time.

Today the building still serves as one of Rome's central landmarks, located in the center of downtown on Broad Street.

Construction began on this site one hundred years ago this month, after residents—"Ro-

mans"—agreed to allow city issued bonds to be sold to fund the project.

The building's auditorium has served as the venue for a variety of significant events and hosted a long list of notable public officials, including former U.S. Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan, and popular musicians like the Allman Brothers Band.

I cannot imagine a drive through downtown Rome without seeing City Hall.

Happy centennial anniversary.

H.R. 1560 AND H.R. 1731

### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I voted against H.R. 1560, the Protecting Cyber Networks Act and H.R. 1731, National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act.

H.R. 1560 was an overly broad intrusion into civil liberties. While H.R. 1730 was more narrowly tailored and represented progress from previous cybersecurity bills that the House has considered, I continue to have reservations, particularly with the liability provisions in the bill.

Protecting ourselves against cyber-attacks is critical for national security and for a robust economy, and I strongly support taking actions to ensure that we have the best mechanisms in place to defend against cybersecurity threats. In working toward this goal, however, we cannot sacrifice important civil liberties or the privacy of American citizens. We must also ensure that companies can be held accountable if they fail to protect personal information or fail to act on cybersecurity threat information.

I will work to help these proposals to evolve so that we will consider an improved solution in the future.

#### HONORING NEW HAVEN NATIVE FRED PARRIS

### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure today that I rise to join Mayor Toni Harp and the City of New Haven as they pay tribute to New Haven native Fred Parris at the City's 377th Anniversary celebration. Today, community leaders and residents will gather to plant five trees, one for each century during which the City of New Haven has been incorporated. As they do so, they will pay homage to the City's "deep roots" by recognizing one of our civic icons, Fred Parris.

Founder and lead singer of The Five Satins, Fred's extraordinary story began in 1953 when he started singing as a student at Hillhouse High School in a group called the Scarlets. The group disbanded when its members joined the army in 1956 and Fred Parris found himself stationed at Philadelphia's Navy Yard. On weekends, Fred would often return to New Haven and sing for fun with a few friends from the neighborhood. In fact, they could often be found singing on street corners along bustling

Dixwell Avenue. At the insistence of a local record company owner, Fred got together with Jim Freeman, Lou Peebles, Eddie Martin and Stanley Dortch to form the Five Satins—the era of Doo-Wop music was born.

One night, while on guard duty at 4 am, Fred penned "In The Still of the Night" bringing a musical gift to the world. It has been over 50 years since they recorded "In the Still of the Night" in the basement of St. Bernadette's church in New Haven. Just weeks later, Fred was shipped out by the time the record made the national charts, he was stationed in Japan and had to be replaced by Bill Baker. When Fred returned from the army, he again became the group's lead, recording songs like "Shadows" and "I'll Be Seeing You."

"In the Still of the Night" has sold millions of copies and is still one of the most requested "golden oldies" on almost every Top-40 radio station in the country. In fact, when Rolling Stone magazine released its list of "The 500 Greatest Songs of All Time" a few years ago, "In the Still of the Night" was right up there at #90—in between #89 "California Dreamin'" by The Mamas & The Papas and #91 "Suspicious Minds" by Elvis Presley. Fred and his Five Satins continued recording well into the 1980's and in 2003 were inducted into the Vocal Group Hall of Fame.

Fred, along with his wife, Emma, continues to make the Greater New Haven community their home today and Fred continues to perform. He is true community treasure and I am honored to join Mayor Harp and all of those gathered today in paying him tribute.

#### TRIBUTE TO VICTIMS OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to submit these additional names of Armenians who lost their lives in the Armenian Genocide from 1915 to 1923. We will never forget their names and their stories and we will continue to speak the truth in the face of denial.

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giving federal land grants to states so that they would in turn sell them to establish "land-grant" universities with the funds. Academically, these institutions were to specialize in fields such as agriculture, military strategy, and engineering, initiatives that would have a distinct impact on local economies and technological developments in years to come.

Twenty-eight years later, the second Morrill Act of 1890 was enacted and we celebrate that moment today. It was significant because it specifically addressed the former Confederate States. In order to combat extensive racial discrimination faced by African Americans in the post-Civil War South, the Act required that States wishing to receive federal support must either omit entry restrictions based on skin color at their universities entirely, or else establish separate institutions specifically designed to accommodate African Americans. Many historically black colleges and universities came into existence as a result of this rule.

Prior to the Civil War, there were few opportunities for African Americans to receive a higher education. Those African Americans who did receive such schooling studied at home or in informal settings. In fact, during the era of slavery, it had been a crime to instruct an African American in anything except the most rudimentary skills.

Within the Second Congressional District of Georgia, one concrete outcome of this landmark legislation was the 1895 founding of Fort Valley High and Industrial School, which would later become Fort Valley State College and, finally, Fort Valley State University. This historically African-American institution remains Georgia's only 1890 land-grant university.

Proving itself over decades of scholastic distinction and educating thousands of students in the sciences as well as the arts, this renowned establishment is still alive and flourishing today. It was all made possible through that groundbreaking decision made more than a century ago. Since the 1890 Act directly addressed concerns of discrimination against African Americans, it has served to provide opportunities for all students, regardless of their race.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed my privilege to bring attention to this important day, and to recognize the changes the Morrill Act of 1890 has brought to our communities and to our nation. For it is through the diversity and the inspiration of our youth that we are able to grow as a society, in innovation and in hope. Let us celebrate these developments today and anticipate a bright future to come tomorrow.

#### THE 67TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I join the Israeli people in celebrating 67 years of independence and more than six decades of steadfast support by the United States.

Israel remains unquestionably our strongest ally in the region—a key supporter in our fight against terrorism and the only country in the region in which the voice of its citizens is regularly heard through the ballot box.

#### IN COMMEMORATION OF 1890S DAY

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in proud recognition of 1890s Day, which commemorates an influential piece of legislation that took effect 125 years ago yet is still very relevant today.

In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Morrill Act into law with the intention of



Not only are our security interests inextricably linked, but the U.S.-Israeli relationship is firmly rooted in democratic values, common goals, and the unbreakable bond between our people.

As the former Chairwoman and current Ranking Member on the Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations, I will continue to advocate for U.S. assistance to Israel, which helps our ally secure its borders and protect its citizens, as well as unequivocally support efforts to stand with Israel in international fora.

This year's Yom Ha'atzmaut is an opportunity to celebrate the ties that unite us and recommit ourselves to working together on the many challenges currently facing both our great countries.

#### HONORING THE MOTHERS TRUST FOUNDATION

#### HON. ROBERT J. DOLD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Mothers Trust Foundation of Lake County. Founded by Barbara Monsor, the Mothers Trust Foundation's mission is to provide immediate assistance during times of crisis to low-income children.

Mr. Speaker, the Mothers Trust Foundation works to connect children in desperate situations with those who want to provide assistance where it truly makes a difference. Each request is specific to the child's financial needs. For example, the organization helps fund the cost of school supplies, a class field trip fee or even a college application payment.

By assisting in these times of need, the Mothers Trust Foundation strives to build confidence and make a positive difference in young people's lives. Thank you to Jody Ortiz, Jeanette Lincoln, Wendy Feldhaus, Daria Andrews, Jane Rubin, Terri Karst, Tina Mascari and Mary Claire Sparrow for dedicating your time to a special cause. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize these selfless, inspiring leaders and the Mothers Trust Foundation.

#### TRIBUTE TO VICTIMS OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

#### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to submit these additional names of Armenians who lost their lives in the Armenian Genocide from 1915 to 1923. We will never forget their names and their stories and we will continue to speak the truth in the face of denial.

Rev. Fr. Krikor Mansouian, Rev. Fr. Sdepan Mansouir, Rev. Fr. Boghos Maranian, Rev. Fr. Ardagh Mardirossian, Rev. Fr. Arshen Mardirossian, Rev. Fr. Bedros Mardirossian, Rev. Fr. Hovsep Mardirossian, Rev. Fr. Khoren Mardirossian, Rev. Fr. Michael Mardirossian, Rev. Fr. Sarkis Mardirossian, Rev. Fr. Ghevont Margossian, Rev. Fr. Dзамитос Markarian, Rev. Fr. Gorun Markarian, V. Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Mavian,

Rev. Fr. Tatoul Mazmanian, Rev. Fr. Israel Medjigian, Rev. Fr. Gorun Megerditchian, V. Rev. Fr. Nerses Megerditchian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Melikian, Rev. Fr. Dadjad Melkonian, Rev. Fr. Haroutiun Melkonian, Rev. Fr. Khatchadour Melkonian, Rev. Fr. Souren Melkonian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Messerlian, Rev. Fr. Apkar Mghdessian, Rev. Fr. Mikael, Rev. Fr. Khoren Mikaelian, Rev. Fr. Moushegh Mikaelian, V. Rev. Fr. Sarkis Mikaelian, Rev. Fr. Mergerios Minassian, Rev. Fr. Minas Minassian, Rev. Fr. Tateos Minassian, Rev. Fr. Haroutiun Miroyan, Rev. Fr. Garabed Mkhalian, Rev. Fr. Partogh Mkhalian, V. Rev. Fr. Yeghishe Mogatsian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Moughalian, Rev. Fr. Zadiq Moumighian, Rev. Fr. Hayrabed Mouradian, Rev. Fr. Krikor Mouradian, Rev. Fr. Oksendios Mouradian, Rev. Fr. Ovresdes Mouradian, Rev. Fr. Ovresdes Mouradian, Rev. Fr. Souren Mouradian, Rev. Fr. Yeghishe Mouradian, Rev. Fr. Khatchadour Mouradian, V. Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Mouradian, Rev. Fr. Hemayag Mouradkhanian, Rev. Fr. Melkiseteg Moushmoulian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Najarian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Nalbadian, Rev. Fr. Yeghia Nazaretian, V. Rev. Fr. Yeznig Nergarian, Rev. Fr. Soukias Nersesian, Rev. Fr. Levon Nigoghossian, Rev. Fr. Bedros Nonoyan, Rev. Fr. Partoghimeos Noradounghian, Rev. Fr. Minas Noraznian, Rev. Fr. Vramshabouh Norhadian, Rev. Fr. Michael Norigian, Rev. Fr. Ashod Noroyan, Rev. Fr. Teopile Odabashian, V. Rev. Fr. Sahag Odabashian, V. Rev. Fr. Ohan, Rev. Fr. Krikoris Otsetsian, Rev. Fr. Arisdage Otsnetsi, Rev. Fr. Israel Padigian, Archpriest Fr. Boghos Paghian, V. Rev. Fr. Taniel Paghounian, Rev. Fr. Nahabed Paghoyan, Rev. Fr. Avedik Palouyan, Bishop Hagop Ashod Papazian, Rev. Fr. Ardash Papazian, Rev. Fr. Ardashes Papazian, Rev. Fr. Baghdasar Papazian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Papazian, V. Rev. Fr. Mashdots Papazian, Rev. Fr. Yezras Papelian, Rev. Fr. Mardiros Paraghamian, Rev. Fr. Simon Parkhalian, Rev. Fr. Adom Parseghian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Parseghian, Rev. Fr. Khoren Parseghian, Rev. Fr. Parshegh Parseghian, V. Rev. Fr. Nerses Partoughimiosian, Rev. Fr. Yeghia Patrian, Rev. Fr. Kourken Pehlivanian, Rev. Fr. Sebouh Pertchigian, V. Rev. Fr. Hovhan Peshdimajlian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Pirlian, Rev. Fr. Mardiros Piroumian, Rev. Fr. Parsegh Pogharian, Rev. Fr. Bsgag Posigian, Rev. Fr. Jirayr Posoyan, Rev. Fr. Sahag Postoyan, Rev. Fr. Serovpe Pregian, Rev. Fr. Parnapas Proudian, Rev. Fr. Sdepanos Proudian, Rev. Fr. Parnapas Rapounian, Rev. Fr. Dadjad Reyissian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Rouhbanian, Rev. Fr. Vahan Roushanian, Rev. Fr. Kalousd Sahagian, Rev. Fr. Neshan Sahagian, Rev. Fr. Rapael Sahagian, Rev. Fr. Vahan Sahagian, V. Rev. Fr. Shavarsh Sahagian, Rev. Fr. Yerevoun Sandekian, Rev. Fr. Kenarios Sarafian, Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Sarajian, Rev. Fr. Sarkis, Rev. Fr. Avedis Sarkissian, Rev. Fr. Bsgag Sarkissian, Rev. Fr. Hemayag Sarkissian, Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Sarkissian, Rev. Fr. Kourken Sarkissian, Rev. Fr. Megerditch Sarkissian, Rev. Fr. Nerses Sarkissian, V. Rev. Fr. Sahag Sarkissian, Rev. Fr. Karekin Savayan, Rev. Fr. Sdepan, Archpriest Karekin Seferian, Rev. Fr. Yeghishe Seferian, Rev. Fr. Yeprem Seferian, Rev. Fr. Oksen Semerjian, Rev. Fr. Sempad, Rev. Fr. Khoren Senekerimian, V. Rev. Fr. Gorun Serabian, Rev. Fr. Sahag Serginian, Rev. Fr. Kervope Seropian, Rev. Fr. Tatoul Seropian,

Rev. Fr. Serovpe, V. Rev. Fr. Avedis Setrakian, Rev. Fr. Mesrob Shahbazian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Shahinian, Rev. Fr. Oshin Shahnazarian, Rev. Fr. Kevork Shakarian, Rev. Fr. Kourken Shaljian, Rev. Fr. Teopile Sharounagian, Rev. Fr. Vartan Sharoyan, Rev. Fr. Yeznig Sheperdigian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Shiranian, Rev. Fr. Zareh Shisheyan, Rev. Fr. Krikor Simigian, Rev. Fr. Diradour Simonian, Rev. Fr. Ghevont Simonian, Rev. Fr. Reteos Simonian, Rev. Fr. Apraham Sinabian, Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Sinoyan, Rev. Fr. Kourken Sivaslian, Rev. Fr. Soghomon, Rev. Fr. Nerses Soghomonian, V. Rev. Fr. Hovsep Soghomonian, Rev. Fr. Arisdages Soughoubatian, Rev. Fr. Arisdages Soukiassian, Rev. Fr. Hrayr Soukiassian, Rev. Fr. Apraham Sourenian, Rev. Fr. Vahan Sumenian, V. Rev. Fr. Nerses Takavorian, Rev. Fr. Mekhitar Tamezian, Bishop Nerses Tanielian, Rev. Fr. Markar Tanielian, V. Rev. Fr. Barkev Tanielian, Rev. Fr. Gomidas Tapinian, Rev. Fr. Khoren Tarpinian, Rev. Fr. Sempad Tarpinian, Rev. Fr. Vartan Tarpinian, Rev. Fr. Krikor Tashjian, Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Tatarian, Archpriest Fr. Vartan Tateossian, Rev. Fr. Kevork Tateossian, Rev. Fr. Mampre Tateossian, Rev. Fr. Hovsep Tavitian, Archpriest Hagop Tchaghatsbanian, V. Rev. Fr. Megerditch Tchelghadian, V. Rev. Fr. Yeghishe Tehanoyan, Rev. Fr. Garabed Telalian, Rev. Fr. Ghevont Tellerian, Rev. Fr. Arisdages Temourian, Archpriest Fr. Mampre Tepigian, Rev. Fr. Apraham Tertsagian, Rev. Fr. Avedis Terzian, V. Rev. Fr. Kegham Tevelkian, Bishop Khoren Timaksian, Rev. Fr. Hamazasb Tinarian, Rev. Fr. Asoghig Toghakian, Rev. Fr. Bedros Topalian, Rev. Fr. Nerses Topalian, V. Rev. Fr. Vaghinag Torigian, Archpriest Fr. Yeprem Torkomian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Torossian, Rev. Fr. Mesrob Torossian, Rev. Fr. Medropanos Tosoyan, Rev. Fr. Garabed Toukhigian, V. Rev. Fr. Kevork Tourian, Rev. Fr. Yeznig Toursarkissian, Rev. Fr. Housig Tovmassian, Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Tovmassian, Rev. Fr. Sarkis Tovmassian, Rev. Fr. Tovmas Tovmassian, V. Rev. Fr. Hovsep Tovmassian, Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Tovmayan, V. Rev. Fr. Hovhannes, V. Rev. Fr. Apraham, V. Rev. Fr. Karekin, V. Rev. Fr. Khatchadour, V. Rev. Fr. Khatchadour, V. Rev. Fr. Vahan, Archpriest Nerses Vahanian, V. Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Vahradian, Rev. Fr. Moushegh Varjabedian, Rev. Fr. Penig Varjabedian, Rev. Fr. Hesou Vartabedian, Rev. Fr. Arsen Vartanian, Rev. Fr. Avedis Vartanian, Rev. Fr. Karekin Vartanian, Rev. Fr. Khat Vartanian, Rev. Fr. Kourken Vartanian, V. Rev. Fr. Hamazasb Vartanian, Rev. Fr. Ghevont Vassilian, Rev. Fr. Haroutiun Vassilian, Rev. Fr. Krikor Vatabedian, Rev. Fr. Karekin Vemian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Vosganian, Rev. Fr. Sahag Yaghoubian, Rev. Fr. Melkiseteg Yardemian, Rev. Fr. Vagharshag Yegavian, V. Rev. Fr. Hamazasb Yeghiseyan, Rev. Fr. Gorun Yeramian, Rev. Fr. Mampre Yeranossian, Archpriest Boghos Yeretsian, Archpriest Fr. Moushegh Yeretsian, Rev. Fr. Bedros Yeretsian, Rev. Fr. Hemayag Yeretsian, Rev. Fr. Megerditch Yeretsian, Rev. Fr. Ashod Yergatian, Rev. Fr. Dadjad Yessayan, Rev. Fr. Hemayag Yeterian, V. Rev. Fr. Apkar Yotnaghperian, Rev. Fr. Nerses Zadourian, Archpriest Fr. Vartan Zakarian, Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Zakarian, Rev. Fr. Shemavon Zakarian, Rev. Fr. Sighvanos Zakarian, Rev. Fr. Yeghishe Zakarian, Rev. Fr. Sarkis



Zakoyan, Tshxun Karoyan, Krikor Zohrab, Haroutiun Shahrigian (Adom), Karekin Khajag (Chakalian), E. Agnuni (Khachadour Maloomian), Dikran Kelegian, Siamanto (Adom Yarjanian), Herand (Melkon Gurjian), Taniel Varoujan (Chibookirarian), Roupen Zartarian, Roupen Sevag (Dr. R. Chilinguirian).

# RECOGNIZING THE 67TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE

## HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 67th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel and to reaffirm the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the United States and Israel.

Israel was created in 1948; it took President Truman only 11 minutes to recognize the new Jewish State.

Since then, Israel has come to exist as the only true democracy in the Middle East.

Israel and the United States have many of the same foundations of government: freedom of religion, free speech, basic human rights, the rule of law and being a nation of immigration and diversity.

In addition, it is a home to many religious sites which are sacred to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam and attracts multitudes of visitors every year.

Israel provided a refuge to Jews who survived the horrors of the Holocaust and the evils committed by the Nazis which were unprecedented in human history.

The people of Israel have established a unique, pluralistic democracy which includes the freedoms cherished by the people of the United States, including freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of association, freedom of the press, and government by the consent of the governed.

Israel continues to serve as an example of democratic values by regularly holding free and fair elections, promoting the free exchange of ideas, and vigorously exercising in its Parliament, the Knesset, a democratic government that is fully representative of its citizens.

I applaud the Government of Israel for successfully working with the neighboring Governments of Egypt and Jordan to establish peaceful, bilateral relations.

I have had the privilege of visiting Israel many times, and observing firsthand her great achievements in the areas of medical research, technology, business, and the arts.

Mr. Speaker, the 67th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel is an occasion for us to reflect and reaffirm the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the United States and Israel.

The United States and Israel enjoy a strategic partnership based on shared mutual democratic values, friendship, and respect.

The people of the United States share affinity with the people of Israel and view Israel as a strong and trusted ally.

I hope this friendship continues to grow and blossom for decades to come.

# THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO ENSURE THAT THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY COMPLIES WITH FEDERAL AUDITING STANDARDS

## HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to prohibit federal funds from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) from being disbursed to the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) unless DOT certifies that MWAA is complying with audit standards. There have been some improvements at MWAA, but significant failures in MWAA's contracting, auditing, and hiring policies and practices pointed to a need for systemic reform in MWAA's acquisition, auditing, and hiring processes. Despite being created by Congress, leasing federally owned land, and benefiting from significant federal taxpayer funds, MWAA is not subject to federal procurement, auditing or nepotism laws. However, MWAA has been taking steps to address these shortcomings.

MWAA is an independent public body created by Congress under the Metropolitan Washington Airports Act of 1986 (Airports Act). MWAA, with 1,400 employees, leases Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and Washington Dulles International Airport from the federal government. In addition to managing the airports, MWAA is responsible for the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project, which has an estimated cost of \$5.8 billion, including \$977 million in federal funds. In 2012, DOT appointed a Federal Accountability Officer, who reports directly to the Secretary, to ensure MWAA follows the DOT Inspector General's (IG) recommendations.

A 2012 DOT IG report, "MWAA's Weak Policies and Procedures Have Led to Questionable Procurement Practices, Mismanagement, and a Lack of Overall Accountability" (Report Number: AV-2013-006) (IG Report), found that "MWAA's contracting policies and practices are insufficient to ensure compliance with the Airports Act and the lease agreement between DOT and MWAA." For example, the Airports Act and lease agreement require MWAA to award contracts over \$200,000 competitively to the maximum extent practicable. However, the IG Report found that MWAA had recently awarded two-thirds of its contracts exceeding \$200,000 with limited competition. The IG Report also noted that MWAA awarded many contracts with no formal solicitation. After the IG Report, MWAA immediately took action and has closed out 10 of 12 recommendations and MWAA has adopted as much of the Federal Acquisition Regulations as are applicable to MWAA. Still, there are significant issues sighted in a recent draft DOT IG report on the Office of Audits that virtually mandates greater monitoring.

A January 15, 2013, Washington Post article reported that at least 10 percent of MWAA employees have family members working there, including spouses and children. The IG report also noted that MWAA lacked "sufficient controls to detect and prevent nepotism." It is clear that changes were imperative and overdue. The lack of transparency and competition on MWAA's contracts and hiring were incon-

sistent with continued ownership of the airports by the federal government, MWAA's creation by Congress, and the significant federal taxpayer dollars MWAA receives. The IG Report's conclusion that procurement procedures and hiring policies in place were inadequate required a response that definitively fixed these issues. MWAA has updated its policies, and nepotism appears to no longer be a problem.

A current draft DOT IG report on the Office of Audits raises a number of questions regarding MWAA's internal auditing procedures. It finds that there have been no outside reviews of the Office of Audits and that the office has not adopted standards and lacked sufficient oversight. MWAA has responded to this draft report by taking initial steps to restructure the office. MWAA has updated its regulations so that the head of the Office of Audits will now report directly to the Board of Directors as well as the President & CEO. MWAA has also adopted the Institute of Internal Auditors standards, and it is undergoing a national search for a new internal auditor and external auditor.

The steps MWAA has taken to address the findings of the DOT IG are commendable. However, considering the outstanding issues, continuous oversight is essential. To further assist MWAA, I am offering this bill so that DOT will continue to have direct oversight over MWAA and access to audit materials.

I urge support of this bill.

# ISRAEL'S 67TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

## HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the people of Israel as Israel celebrates its 67th anniversary.

Since its establishment on May 14, 1948, Israel has proven itself to be a vibrant democracy, one that prioritizes innovation, liberal values and freedom. It is these shared principles that have created the unbreakable bond between the United States and Israel.

Throughout its existence, the Israeli people have faced grave threats from hostile neighbors, defending themselves bravely against repeated terrorist and military attacks. Despite these hardships the Israeli people have not wavered in their commitment to democracy and freedom and have thrived economically, politically, culturally.

The recent growth in anti-Semitic acts, including the attacks this year in Paris and Copenhagen, are a powerful reminder of why the world needs a safe haven for the Jewish people. Such threats to the Jewish Diaspora underscore the importance of Israel as its own protector, and the moral imperative for the United States to stand by her right to self-defense.

As we celebrate Israel's Independence Day, we also remember those who have fallen in service to their country. I am proud to stand here in celebration of the freedoms that Israel stands for and will continue to ensure that the U.S.-Israel relationship remains strong and bipartisan.

TRIBUTE TO VICTIMS OF THE  
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to submit these additional names of Armenians who lost their lives in the Armenian Genocide from 1915 to 1923. We will never forget their names and their stories and we will continue to speak the truth in the face of denial.

Sarkis Minassian, Dr. Nazaret Dagbavarian, Dr. Garabed Pashalian Khan, Levon Larents (Kirishjian), Sumpad Purad (Derghazarents), Hampartsoom Hampartsoomian, Parsegh Shahbaz, Ardashes Haroutiunian, Jack Sayabalian (Paylag), Krikor Torosian, Kegham Parseghian, Dikran Cheogurian, Shavarsh Kurisian, Krikor Yesayan, Armen Doryan (Hurchya Soorenian), Aris Israyelian, Mihran Tabakian, Hagop Terzian, Hampartsoom Boyajian (Moorad), Vartkes (Hovhannes Serengulian), Marzbed (Ghazar Ghazarian), Arisdages Kasbarian, Haroutiun G. Jangulian, Sarkis Parseghian (Shameel), Bedros Kalfayan, Haroutiun Kalfayan, Sarkis Suvin (Sungujan), Edwar Beyazian, Hurach (Haig Tirakian), Adom Shahen (Yeritsants), Yenovk Shahen, Nerses Papazian, Nerses Zakarian, Dr. Sdepan Miskjian, Ardzruni (Hagop Avedisian), Sako, Dr. Levon Bardizbanian, Ardashes Semerjian (Torkom), Vramshabooch Arabian, Nerses Shahnoor, Serovpe Noradoongian, Karekin Husian, Mardiros H. Koondakjian, Krikor Armoonian, Boghos Tanielian, Megerdich Garabedian, Apraham Hayrigian, Levon Aghababian, Kevork Terjimanian, Dikran Ashkharooni, Kevork Diratsooyan, Mihrtad Haygazn, Rosdom Rosdomian, Vramshabooch Samuelian, Arshag Khazkhazian, Mrgrrdich Sdepanian, Levon Shashian, Paroonag Feroukhan, Onnig Maghazajian, Teodor Mendzigian, Varteres Atanasian, Apig Jambaz, Vahram Altoonian, Yerchanig Aram, Nerses D. Kevorkian, Onnig Srabian, Partogh Zorian, Akrig Kerestegian, Melkon Piosian, Pilibbos Chilinguirian, Haroutiun Konialian, Vahan Jamjian, Haroutiun Kalfaian, Hovhannes Kelejian, Sdepan Kurkjian, Dikran Sarkisian, Barooyr Arzoomanian, Haig Derderian, Mirijan Artinian, Hampartsum Balasan, Vahan Kehiaian, Ardashes Ferahian, Artin Meserlian, Armenag Arakelian, Mihran Pasdurmajian, Neshan Nahabedian, Yeghia Suzigian, Bedros Kurdian, Diran Yerganian, Asadoor Madteosian, Yervant Chavooshian, Hagop Shahbaz, Sarkis Kaligian, Garabed Reyisian, Kevork Kopooshian, Krikor Ohnigian, Aram Ohnigian, Karekin Ohnigian, Hovhannes Keoleian, Dikran Baghdigian, Hovhannes Cheogurian, Paramaz, Dr. Benne Torosian, Aram Achukbashian, Kegham Vanigian, Yervant Topoozian, Roupen Garabedian, Hovhannes Der Ghazarian, Tovmas Tovmasian, Hagop Basmajian, Moorad Zakarian, Megerdich Yeretsian, Karekin Boghosian, Armenag Hampartsoomian, Yeremia Manoogian, Apraham Mooradian, Minas Keshishian, Sumpad Kulujian, Karnig Boyajian, Herand Yegavian, Boghos Boghosian, Herand Aghajanian, Garabed Patoogian, Khoren Khorenian, Amasiatsi Krikor Kayian, Ishkhan Nighoghayos Boghosian with his 4 friends, Vramian Onnig

Tertsagian, Ardashes Solakian, Dikran Odian (Asso), A. Proodian, Garabed Dantlian, Haygag Yeremishian, Yerookhan (Yervant Srmakeshkanlian), Tulgadintsi, Prof. Garabed Soghigian, Prof. Megerdich Vorperian, Prof. Hovhannes Boujikianian, Prof. Nigoghos Tenekejian, Prof. Khachadour Nahigian, Prof. Donabed Lulejian, Jirair Hagopian, Hovhannes Dingilian, Hovhannes Aghanigian, Aram Srabian, Armen Onanian, Hovsep Malemezian, Kegham Samuelian, Kapriel Tanielian, Karnig Gosdanian, Hagop Dinjian, Armen Hovagimian, Asadour Jamgochian, Mouradian, Hovhannes Zartarian, Kevork Keleshian, Hagop Shoushanian, Setrag Dulgerian, Aram Dabaghian, Haroutiun Semerjian, Hagop Hapet, Sarkis Eljanian, Mihran Isbirian, Senekerim Kalyonjian, Moorad Derderian, Garabed Barsamian, Karnig Toughlajian, Manuel Dedeian, Levon Kantarian, Aram Hagopian, Khachadour Grdodian, Michael Frengulian, Roupen Rakoubian, Hampartsoom Blejian, Vahan Husisian, Nazaret Husisian, Bidza, Hemayag Karageozian, Israel Ozanian, Dajad Chebookjian, Levon Karageozian, Hmayag Margosian, Hmaiaig Karibian, Ardashig Boornazian, Hagop Boornazian, M. Paroonag Sarkisian, Arshag Kizirian, Hovhannes Boghosian, K. Vosgerichian, Antranig Bozajian, Aram Adrouni, Aram Shesheian, Hurach Loosparonian, Megerdich Asdourian, Pilos, Tsitoghtsi Setrag Varjabed, Partogh Odabashian, Kaloosd Garabedian, Vahan Kasbarian, Kevork Zooloomian, Hagop Garabedian, Peniamin Chulghatian, Haroutiun Boshosian, Gorun (Gomsetsi Iso), Megerdich Polaian (Mejo), Vartan Dikran, Armenag Yoxhigian, Garabed Jamjian, Karnig Kouyoumjian, Garabed Nevroozian, Hagop Khayelian, Hago Merdinian, Parsegh Mootafian, Krikor Kouyoumjian, Sarkis Aghartmajian, Hovhannes Boyajian, Mardiros Zooranian, Mirijan Yoghourdashian, Haroutiun Yoghourdashian, Hagop Sudjian, Garabed Mooradian, Hovhannes Nevshahirlian, Avedis Elmajian, Kevork Turkujian, Hovhannes Boyajian, Hagop Oorganjian, Hagop Yesaian, Hagop Balekjian, Garabed Oozoonoghlian, Ghazer Mayisian, Hagop Kazejian, Hovhannes Zeytoontsian, Hovhannes Tavitian, Sarkis Tooloomjian, Garabed Chiydemian, Vahan Amadouni, Krikor Moumijhanian, Krikor Khacheroogian, Haroutiun Dayian, Asdoor Minasian, Haroutiun Keoleyian, Garabed Aghcharian, Manoog Buchakjian, Hagop Chubookjian, Mihran Guzeian, L. Varzhabedian, Misak Bahanjian, Sarkis Karakezian, Setrag Chechenian, Karnig Shemshian, Hagop Berberian, Sahag Kayserlian, Kevork Vishabian, Vahan Kurkjian, Minas Minassian, Minas Bedrosian, Kevork Jamjian, Vahan Jamjian, Kapriel Kurkjian, Markar Yazejian, Parsegh Kilimlian, Vahan Kehiayan, Krikor Gerekezeian, Hagop Yousoufian, Garabed Yousoufian, Karnig Kavjian, Dedeyan Brothers, Aram Dabanian, Yervant Varteresian, Mardiros Lusarian, Nushan Halajian, Garabed Zambakjian, Hovhannes Ekmekjian, Haroutiun Beojekian, Vahan Chapoutian, Garabed Matosian, Varteres Varteresian, Hagop Bostanian, Hovhannes Tufenkjian, Dikran Kasabian, Haroutiun Der Megerdichian, Karnig Balekjian, Prof. Arakel Sivaslian, Prof. Hovhannes Hagopian, Gagig Ozanian, Prof. Arshag Daghljan, Prof. Hovhannes Arozian, Garabed Kojaian, Parsegh Endelebian, Nushan

Yenijelian, Hovhannes Momjian, Ardem Gorgodian, Prof. Jessy Matossian, Prof. Loofti Babigian, Hovhannes Hasurjian, Prof. Arshag Roomian, Hovhannes Kazanjian, Dikran Temurian, Avedis Khudurian, Noorijan Noorijanian, Yegho, Hagop Aghaser, Tovmas Jelalian, Senekerim Bonjooklian, Minas Ipekian, Manoog Tanielian, N. Evranian, G. Churakian, Kar Gozigian, Arshag Papazian, Vahakn Datevian, Ashoogh Shahnazar, Kerovpe Gulbengian, Sdepan Nalbandian, Dr. Hagop Hovhannesian, Ardashes Der Sdepanian, Vartan Misirian, Arakel Abroyan, Garabed Taniel, Berj Taniel, Melki Khanzetian, Sooren Harootiunian, Garabed Sivrisarian, Zinvor Mardig, Siragan Papazian, Alexan Haroutiunian, Sdepan Akchaian, N. Markarian, M. Bartunlian, S. Lazian, K. Paplian, Sarkis Khozaian, Hovhannes Khosaian, Nazaret Tashjian, Mihran Tashjian, Garabed Zadigian, Hayotsian, Garabed, Shmavon, Mihran Kiremidjian, Bedros, Minas, Krikor Sumpadian, Bedros Genjian, Boghos Gegenozian, Hovhannes Mooradian, Khachig Mardigiosian, Hampartsoom Isheian, Siragan Stamboltsian, Iskender Tasamkian, Hagop Bijoyan, Garabed Lezian, Hayrabed Balukjian, Hovhannes Varjabedian, Simonig Seferian, Misak Semerian, A. Khanjian, Onnig Baltayan, A. Nalbandian, H. Kapoojian, Karnig Pekmezian, Toros Pekmezian, S. Dingilian, L. Dingilian, L. Looftiyan.

IN HONOR OF COMMISSIONER  
PETE WHEELER

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I pay tribute to an outstanding civic leader and public servant of Georgia, Commissioner Pete Wheeler, longtime leader of the Georgia Department of Veterans Service (GDVS). Commissioner Wheeler passed away on Tuesday, April 21, 2015. A funeral service will be held on Sunday, April 26, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. at Decatur First United Methodist Church in Decatur, Georgia.

A Georgia man through and through, Pete Wheeler was a proud graduate of the University of Georgia and an attorney, admitted to the State Bar of Georgia in 1949. He served our nation with honor and distinction in the U.S. Army during World War II. In 1950, he joined the Georgia National Guard. He retired in 1978 with the rank of Brigadier General.

Pete Wheeler joined the Georgia Department of Veterans Service in 1949 as Director of the Education Division. In 1951, he was named Assistant Director of the Department. In 1954, he was appointed as the department's director but the title was later changed to Georgia Commissioner of Veterans Service. His strong and effective leadership was widely noted, for he was reappointed fifteen times and remained in charge up to his passing.

For 66 years, Commissioner Wheeler acted as a voice for Georgia veterans and worked tirelessly to advocate on behalf of these national heroes who sacrificed so much to safeguard our cherished liberties.

Shortly after his appointment as director of the GDVS, Commissioner Wheeler joined the

effort to recognize Veterans Day as a new federal holiday. He was named Georgia Chairman of the National Veterans Day Committee and partnered with then-Governor of Georgia, Herman Talmadge, to arrange a formal ceremony for the signing of the proclamation declaring the new holiday in Georgia. This ceremony became a tradition in the state that is still honored today. Due to a decline in health, 2014 marked the first year that Commissioner Wheeler was unable to attend but he certainly was there in spirit.

In 1966, in response to the needs of the first veterans returning from the Vietnam War, as well as those of their families and survivors, Commissioner Wheeler created the Supermarket of Veterans Benefits, a one-day informational event aiming to gather local, state, and federal agencies that provide services to veterans. The event was so successful that it became an annual signature event of the GDVS and has been replicated throughout the country.

In 1994, Commissioner Wheeler was appointed Chairman of the National World War II Memorial Advisory Board by President Bill Clinton, serving until the memorial's dedication by President George W. Bush in 2004. He served as a past president of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs and was a life member of the American Legion, DAV, and AMVETS.

The Georgia General Assembly issued a resolution in 1998 renaming the state's war veterans memorial complex in Atlanta, Georgia as the "Pete Wheeler Georgia War Veterans Memorial Complex." The complex includes memorials to Georgia veterans from the Spanish-American War through Desert Storm/Desert Shield. Earlier this year, Commissioner Wheeler approved the design for the next addition, a memorial honoring those killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, which will be dedicated on May 20, 2015.

On a personal note, Commissioner Pete Wheeler was a close friend of mine. I have truly been blessed by his friendship, counsel and inspiration throughout the years.

Commissioner Wheeler has accomplished much in his life but none of this would have been possible without the love and support of his family. His wife of 59 years, Geraldine, and one daughter, Jane, preceded him in death. Mourning his memory and rejoicing his life are his daughter, Francis and son-in-law, Mark; son, Peter and daughter-in-law, Debbie; son-in-law, John; and six grandchildren, Matthew, Joshua, Joanna, Alex, Charles, and Jonathan.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with the more than 730,000 residents of the Second Congressional District and veterans all across Georgia, salute Commissioner Pete Wheeler for his outstanding public service and his everlasting commitment to improving the quality of life for our veterans. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in extending our deepest condolences to Commissioner Wheeler's family and friends during this difficult time. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

HONORING HAROLD W. MCGRAW III

**HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Harold W. McGraw III on his upcoming retirement from the board of directors of McGraw Hill Financial, the company that his great-grandfather founded in 1888.

Known to his friends as Terry, he joined the company in 1980, holding a number of leadership positions before being named chief executive officer in 1998—the third McGraw to hold that position.

During his tenure as CEO, Terry led the company's transformation from education and publishing into a credit ratings, benchmarks and portfolio-based company, with best-in-class brands that include Standard & Poor's, Platts and J.D. Power.

Though he retired as CEO in 2013, Terry remains active in the global business community and is a well-known voice in various key economic fields. In addition to chairing the International Chamber of Commerce, the U.S. Trade Representatives' Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations, and the U.S. Council for International Business and the Emergency Committee for American Trade, Terry also is a former Chairman of the Business Roundtable and the U.S.-India Business Council. He serves as a member of the board of directors of United Technologies and of Phillips 66, chairman of the Emergency Committee for American Trade (ECAT), and a member of the Business Council.

The company has always been a fixture in the New York City philanthropic community and, under Terry's leadership, employees have donated countless volunteer hours for causes and programs around the city. This has included everything from park clean-ups with the New York Restoration Project to reading to underserved elementary school children as part of the Read Ahead partnership. The company has provided scores of grants to arts and cultural venues as well.

Terry has devoted himself personally to several programs with which he has particularly deep relationships. He greatly increased corporate support—and personal contributions—to the New York Public Library, where he also serves as a Trustee. He continued the long tradition of McGraw family and company support for Hartley House, a nonprofit community center serving the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood of New York City. Terry also initiated the company's partnership with the South Bronx-based Morris High School Educational Campus, taking an active personal interest in the school by meeting and mentoring its students, speaking at events and launching an annual scholarship program.

Mr. Speaker, Terry McGraw has distinguished himself throughout his career as a skilled and savvy businessman, as well as a generous and civic-minded philanthropist. I ask my colleagues to support me in congratulating him on his countless achievements during a remarkable career.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

This year marks one hundred years since the tragedy of the Armenian Genocide. A systematic campaign of genocide against the Armenian people at the hands of the Ottoman Empire. What began with the killing of 300 Armenian leaders resulted in the deaths of one and a half million people and the forced exile of another 500,000.

It is often said that those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it, which is why each year I call on the President to officially acknowledge this terrible chapter of history by using the word "genocide." In a recent Detroit News article, a local resident said this, "The fact that 100 years later you still have to explain and prove that what happened to your ancestors was a premeditated crime on a massive scale really incurs a lot of pain for all Armenians."

In my home state of Michigan, 11,000 people of Armenian descent reside and may leading organizations have organized commemorative events leading up to April 24th. I have had the honor to attend many events at St. John's Armenian Church in Southfield where there stands a memorial which contains the remains of a genocide victim. We are also proud that the only Armenian research center attached to an American university is at the University of Michigan-Dearborn where the Center documents the Armenian genocide and current Armenian issues.

I am always pleased to co-sponsor Congressional resolutions that shed light on the true nature of this ethnic extermination, and honor its victims and survivors. On the 100th Anniversary, I recall with deep sorrow the stories passed down through families of death marches, labor camps, entire families wiped out, years of slavery, massacre, and starvation.

I respectfully request that all my colleagues join me today in honoring the victims and survivors of the Armenian Genocide.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the start of the Armenian Genocide.

In 1915, the Ottoman Empire orchestrated a murderous campaign that resulted in the death of 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children, and forced hundreds of thousands into exile. Growing up in the land of William S. Royan, I learned the stories of this tragic time from the sons and daughters of survivors time and time again. Refusal to accurately recognize this crime against humanity as genocide

hurts both the Armenian people and the American people.

In the Central Valley, Fresno State University has designated April 24 as Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day. The unveiling of the Armenian Genocide Monument, the first of its kind on a U.S. college campus, will take place later today at my alma mater and I know that this memorial will serve as a somber reminder of the devastating violence committed against the Armenian people for generations to come.

Achieving peace today requires recognizing the dark parts of our history and moving forward to find a place of understanding and co-operation. It is my hope that Turkey grasps what President Obama has referred to as the burden of unresolved history and takes this important first step in recognizing what is widely referred to as the first genocide of the twentieth century.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Acknowledging this atrocity would finally allow a fair, just, and comprehensive international resolution of this crime against humanity. It is time for Congress to end the silence and stand up for the Armenian people.

TRIBUTE TO VICTIMS OF THE  
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to submit these additional names of Armenians who lost their lives in the Armenian Genocide from 1915 to 1923. We will never forget their names and their stories and we will continue to speak the truth in the face of denial.

Minas Keoleyan, Herand Arabian, Azniv & Onnig Filipelian, Kapriel Mozigian, Lapajian father & son, Sinem Shamamian and son Bedros, Minas Fendeklian, H. Oozoonian, Mihran Looftian, H. Yazejian, S. Hisian, M. Khanjian, Aram Kamboorian, G. Ebeyian, K. Andonian, S. Mechigian, Puzand Morookian, Karnig Pachajian, Garabed Pachajian, Sarim Kulujian, Eduar Beyazian, H. Looftian, Armenag Looftian, Tevonian, Sukias Dulgerian, Herand Asdvadzadourian, Hagop Garakian, Melkon Hovsepian, Zareh Kochian, Dr. Maksood Apigian, Dr. Azadian, Dr. Sarkis Azoyan, Dr. Nushan Ajemian, Dr. Surdash Arslanian, Dr. Levon Arslanian, Dr. Levon Torkom Partoghian, Dr. Vahan Kavajian, Dr. Mike Karageozian, Dr. Minas Yarmaian, Dr. Elmasian, Dr. Eminian, Dr. Hagop Tajirian, Dr. Minas Tulbendjian, Dr. H. Terzian, Dr. Vosgan Topalian, Dr. Norayr Khachadourian, Dr. Karekin Ipranosian, Dr. Esgü Denek Madentsi, Dr. Krikor Gulbenkian, Dr. Dikran Halajian, Dr. Levon Loofti Halebian, Dr. Haroutiun Halvajian, Dr. A. Hayranian, Dr. Boghos Hisarlian, Dr. Vahan Ghazarian, Dr. Ghazaros Kharpertzi, Dr. Jeljelian, Dr. Manuelian, Dr. Melkisetegian, Dr. Sarkis Momjian, Dr. Hagop, Dr. Toros Nazlian, Dr. Nushan Nahigian, Dr. H. Nazlian, Dr. Souren Nushanian, Dr. Nerses Shahbazlian, Dr. Anigdos Chobanian, Dr. Misak Baghdasarian, Dr. B. Baghdasarian, Dr. Toros Babigian, Dr. Nushan Bakalian, Dr.

Sarkis Sertelian, Dr. Armenag Seraydarian, Dr. Baghdasar Vartanian, Dr. Haroutiun Vezneian, Dr. Khachig Der Manuelian, Dr. Nushan Der Vahramian, Dr. H. Donigian, Dr. Boghos Palabuyukian, Dr. Misak Panossian, Dr. H. Keshishian, Dr. Mihran Altunian, Dr. M. Albertian, Dr. H. Achbahian, Dr. Peniamin, Dr. Haigazoon Tabibian, Dr. Levon Yeghavian, Dr. Nushan Ghonchegulian, Dr. Manoog, Dr. Nushan Mughigian, Dr. Sumpad, Dr. Paroonag Ajemian, Dr. Armenag, Dr. Proodian, Dr. H. Kooyoomjian, Dr. Kratljan, Dr. Simon Koyoonian, Dr. Yetvart Tashjian, Dr. Khachadour Torkomian, Dr. Haroutiun Looftian, Dr. Norayr Khachadourian, Dr. Karekin Gurjian, Dr. Kevork Gurjian, Dr. Yeghiazar Mesiaian, Dr. Vahan Shidanian, Dr. Khachig Saraydarian, Dr. Dikran Saraydarian, Dr. Sarkis, Dr. Hagop Sarigian, Dr. Sebooh, Dr. Kasbar Srabian, Dr. Vahan Vartanian, Dr. Puzand Derbabian, Dr. M. Der Sdepanian, Dr. Levon Panossian, Dr. Yeghishe Papanian, Dr. Khachig Pasdermajian, Dr. Hagop Kenderian, Dr. Khosrov Keshishian, Maldjian Family, Aintablian Family, Zarouhi Magarian, Rahel Demirjian, Raffael Der-Tovmasyan, Levon Aharonian, Aharon Aharonian, Altoon Aharonian, Haygaz Simonian, Hagop Beloian, Hagop Beloian, Yetvart Jamgochian, Vergeen Tashjian, Verone Bedrosian, Smbat Byurat DerGhazarian, Zumgroot DerGhazarian, Zartar Arakelian, Maryam Kazarian, Hovanness Yeretzian, Marian Shekerdeman, Vartan Yeretzian, Kevork Vichabian, Simon Simonyan, Zmrookht Simonyan, Mariam Simonyan, Haroutyun Papazian, Zakaria Minassian, Garabed Jingoizian, Zakaria Minassian, Krikor Papazian, Baghdassar Karibian, Mary Meuguerditchian-Apelian, Zakar Ovoian, Hambardzum Khulyan, Suren Hakobyan, Azatuhi Hakobyan, Vostan Baghallian, Simon Hovhannesi Achikgozian, Hripsime Aghvinian, Hovhanes Aghvinian, Ester Maghakian, Boghos Maghakian, Maghak Maghakian, Mkhoyan Asatur, Hripsime Maghakian, Srpuhi Mkrtchyan, Assadour Assadourian, Yeva Hovhannessian, Ghazaros Medzoian, Sargsian Tigran, Loosatsin Medzoian, Araxi Fundukian, Zaven Fundukian, Mariam Aroushian, Sarkis Aroushian, Gadarine Fundukian, Anahid Fundukian, Elmast Medzigian, Khachig Fundukian, Hagop Fundukian, Khassig Fundukian, Eva Fundukian, Melkon Medzigian, Ludwig Medzigian, Verjin Medzigian, Ara Medzigian, Hovannes Altibarmakian, Horop Anoushian, Zakaryan Nerses, Grigor Zohrap, Movses Deirmendjian, Hovaness Toutikian, Maritsa Kyulehyan, Tadevos Karapetyan, Khatchador Boyajian, Shimavon Donoyan, Anna Donoyan, Avedis Chaparian, Sirak Keshishian, Mardiros Toutikian, Abraham Toutikian, Hovannes Knajian, Armenouhi Toutikian, Harout Knajian, Lucy Knajian, Christeen Ter Stepanian, Avak Mouradian, Papken Toumaian, Hagop Kalbakian, Aram Jermakyan, Garabed Kaloustian, Sarkis Dadoyan, Elisabeth Partamian, Nazareth Partamian, Ovsanna Kayayan, Marna Banerian, Onnig Khachigian, Elmonig Khachigian, Onnig Khachaturian, Stepan Khachigian, Elize Avakian, Zabel Avakian, Arousiag Avakian, Setrag Avakian, Mgrditch Tashjian, Boghos Mkhitarian, Iskouhi Gabrielian, Aregnaz Markaryan, Missak Moizian, Haroutyun Sarkissian, Santoukht Moizian Ansoorian, Mikael Ansoorian, Yeghia Sarkissian, Khazaros Charchian, Mihran Berberian, Haganoush Tarpinian, Megerdich

Sarafian, George Chelabian, Hakop Ter-Saakyan, Tatos Moloian, Mikael Khachetoorian, Hamparsoum Borzakian, Mesrob Der Mesrobian, Marta Avakian, Karnig Tomassian, Gayane Kazarian, Dikran Kazarian, Ararat Kazarian, Shoushanig Donegian, Haroutune Oknayan, Hagop Parsaghian, Niko Zakarian, Mariam Kouyoumjian, Kevork Mardirossian, Hripsime Mardirossian, Kevork Mardirossian, Makrouhie Oknayan, Khachik Oknayan, Hagop Oknayan, Mihran Oknayan, Manuk Oknayan, Asvadzadour Oknayan, Marie Oknayan, Mousheg Khodjhumyan, Jovannes Kabbendjian, Krakow Ouzounian, Edward Bozajian, Manouk Gasparian, Gazaros Tombulyan, Sarkis Gasparian, Ibrahim Louseian, Ann Gasparian, Ibrahim Lousean, Davit Gezalian, Yegisabet Gezalian, Hrand Mikoyan, Minas Chatalian, Mariam Chatalian, Yestare Bedrossian, Rosa Jeboghlian, Marie Balian, Mikael Tarkanian, Alton Derderian, Eksa. Derderian, Mihran Tarkanian, Vartan Dakessian, Levon Guevoghlian, Boghos Grikorian, Hovanes Minasyan, Gevorg Minasyan, Matevos Matilyan, Simon Kelian, Hovannes Terterian, Haji Teyrekian, Ahavni Birickyan, Avetis Martirosyan, Ocean Movsesian, Krikor Gureghian, Paul DerBoghossian, Sahag DerBoghossian, Tigran Trchunyan, Tirhouhi Kara-Sarkissian, Gevorg Kara-Sarkissian, Armen Kara-Sarkissian, Aram Kara-Sarkissian, Alexan Tavitian, Armine Pagoumian, Vartan Balikian, Margaret Madoian, Miriam Madoian, Hatchig Madoian, Pusant Madoian, Maghta Gevorgian, Barsegh Karapetyan, Osanna Madoian, Atoyan Maria-Magdalena, Stepan Arvanyan, Haroutune Bozghourian, Ghazaros Baldjian, Sanasar Hovhannissyan, Eriya Amiran, Armenag Zeytounsian, Toros Agha Chaghllassian, Hovsep Najarian, Stephen Minasian, Haykandukht Mheryan, Hagop Melkonian, Christaphor Mheryan, Nerses Mheryan, Serop Manjikian, Sarkis Kurkdjian Senior, Tigran Zarookian, Zarouhi Alachanian, Mardiros Djambazian, Anahid Der Parseghian, Zaruhi Caroglanian, Asadour Daldabanian, Krikor Daldabanian, Arshagul Artinian, Krikor Artinian, Vaxho Simonyan, Haroutyun Tatikian, Kurken Parseghian, Mihran Sabonjian, Vahan Kazezian, Mariam Kazezian, Yebrakseh Kazezian, Krikor Sabonjian, Nazar Guyujyan, Razmik Palandjian, Mari Guyujyan, Krikor Gokpanossian, Panos Trashian, Goar Akopova, Anoush Kulafian, Vartouhy Kulafian, Ohannes Hagopian, Hagop Hagopian, Jirair Demirjian, Suqias Nuroyan, Matevos Sachyan, Hnazand Sachyan, Samson Khachatryan, Mariam Khachatryan.

IN HONOR OF ISRAELI  
INDEPENDENCE DAY

**HON. JUAN VARGAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the State of Israel in celebration of the 67th anniversary of the declaration of its independence. Israel was founded and declared an independent state on April 14, 1948, moments before the British Mandate was due to end. From that point on in history, Israel has

had to face many challenges that threaten the free and democratic nation. Under the administration of President Harry Truman and minutes after its independence, the United States found in Israel a friend and an ally.

From the beginning of its history as an independent state, Israel has had to face and overcome constant challenges to its freedom of speech, religion, press, and to its democracy. Israelis have had to fight for the strengthening of their independence and their advancement as a global state. Despite constantly being threatened by turmoil from bordering regions, Israel has been able to flourish and become a global leader in scientific research and medical advancements, and a model to the world for its economic stability.

Today, we celebrate the 67th anniversary of the declaration of independence of the State of Israel. We celebrate that Israel has been able to stand strong and thrive against all adversity. For this, I would like to commend the State of Israel for its tremendous accomplishments while fighting for the peace and freedom of an independent state.

#### RECOGNIZING KAREN RATZOW

##### HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the tremendous work of Karen Ratzow who has been on detail with the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee for the past year. Karen has been detailed to the Subcommittee from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's Budget Office. Karen has not only been invaluable to the Subcommittee's work this past year, but she has been diligent, had a tremendous work ethic, and very knowledgeable of the budget process. Karen is always eager to volunteer and lend a hand to whatever task may be needed. She quickly became an integral part of the team and she will certainly be missed.

I want to thank Karen for her outstanding work and for her dedication to agriculture in the United States of America. She is a great example of the kind of public servant we should all strive to be.

As her detail comes to a close, we want to wish her well. We look forward to working with her when she returns to her previous role at USDA.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF QUINCY BROWN

##### HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Quincy Brown, an outstanding actor, producer, photographer, director, singer, model, philanthropist, and co-founder of FourXample Productions. Quincy will be honored at the premiere of his new movie, *Brotherly Love*, on Friday, April 24, 2015 at Carmike Hollywood Connections Ritz 13 in Columbus, Georgia.

The son of actress and model, Kim Porter, and New Jack Swing singer, Al B. Sure, and the stepson of singer and producer, Sean "Diddy" Combs, Quincy grew up in Columbus, Georgia and was educated in the Muscogee County School District. He is the grandson of the late Sarah Porter and great-grandson of Ms. Lila Star, the owner of the renowned Royal Café in Columbus.

Notwithstanding his lineage, Quincy has made a name for himself in the entertainment industry. At just 23 years of age, Quincy is a mini-mogul himself. In 2012, Quincy released his debut single, "Stay Awhile," featuring Kendre. In 2013, he followed up with another single, "The First Thing," which he co-wrote. Now Quincy is both behind and in front of the camera with his FourXample Production crew, recently wrapping up his directorial debut of singer Elle Winter's music video, "No Words," which features Quincy's brother, Christian Combs.

Moreover, Quincy just premiered his new single, "Friends First," featuring rapper French Montana. The single has already hit number 1 on the Billboard "Trending Social" chart. Quincy's new album, 1948, is slated for release this year.

Even at his young age, Quincy recognizes the importance of giving back to the community. He coordinated the first annual Celebrity Kickball Charity Event and the First Annual Celebrity Flag Football Charity Event with singer Chris Brown, which brought together a host of entertainers and celebrities. Quincy has given much to his charity of choice, Best Buddies, an organization dedicated to creating employment opportunities and leadership development for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

At 23, Quincy has already lived more than many people two or three times his age. He pursues each and every idea and passion, striving to connect with people from all walks of life and seeking to live life to the very fullest. Yet, as he achieves stardom, he never forgets the people, places, or comforts of his home—Columbus, Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I have long said that in our area of Middle and Southwest Georgia, we have some of the best, the brightest, the most creative, and the most talented young people anywhere in the world. And Quincy Brown proves that beyond the shadow of a doubt! His industrious perseverance and steadfast commitment to his goals set a magnificent example for the young men and women who look up to him as a role model. We are sure to see even more great things from Quincy Brown in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian, and the more than 730,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District in recognizing Quincy Brown for his remarkable accomplishments as an entertainer and for his generous heart and humble spirit as a philanthropist.

#### ROHINGYA CRISIS CONTINUES IN BURMA

##### HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues a

new report about the perilous reality facing the daily lives of the Rohingya Muslim minority in Burma, also known as Myanmar. The report, *The Rohingya Crisis and the Risk of Atrocities in Myanmar: An ASEAN Challenge and Call to Action*, was published by the ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights and describes the continuing persecution of the Rohingya in Burma. Along with my friend and colleague, Congressman JOE PITTS, in our positions as the Co-Chairs of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, we sent a letter to the Chairman of the ASEAN parliamentarians for Human Rights, the Honorable Malaysian Member of Parliament Charles Santiago, expressing how we share their concerns regarding the continuing human rights abuses perpetrated against the Rohingya people of Burma. Last year, the 113th Congress passed H. Res. 418, "urging the Government of Burma to end the persecution of the Rohingya people and to respect internationally recognized human rights for all ethnic and religious minority groups within Burma."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the letter to Chairman Santiago, the press release from the ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights describing their report, and the Executive Summary and Call to Action of the report.

I urge all my colleagues to review this report and continue to advocate on behalf of the human rights and basic human dignity of the Rohingya people of Burma.

TOM LANTOS,  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION,  
April 21, 2015.

Hon. CHARLES SANTIAGO,  
Member of Parliament, Malaysia, Chairman,  
ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human  
Rights, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SANTIAGO: As Co-Chairs of Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission of the United States Congress, we are writing to congratulate you on the release of your report, "The Rohingya Crisis and the Risk of Atrocities in Myanmar". We share your concerns with the situation in Burma (Myanmar) and appreciate the initiative of ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights to shed light on these disturbing developments and call for action to address them. We are eager to review the report and bring it to the attention of the U.S. Congress and the American people by sharing it with our colleagues and formally entering it into the Congressional Record.

The Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission shares your vision of standing up for abuses of human rights wherever they may occur. We have held hearings and briefings in the U.S. Congress and have worked closely with civil society organizations to bring further attention to the particularly egregious abuses against minorities by the Government of Burma. Last year, we introduced and passed a Congressional Resolution, H. Res. 418 "Urging the Government of Burma to end the persecution of the Rohingya people and respect internationally recognized human rights for all ethnic and religious minority groups within Burma."

We appreciate your leadership on this important issue and your commitment to advancing human rights within ASEAN. We would be pleased to work with you and other elected officials who are committed to the advancement of human rights to address the escalating human rights crisis facing the Rohingya in Burma.

Sincerely,

JAMES P. MCGOVERN,  
Member of Congress,  
Co-Chair TLHRC.

JOSEPH R. PITTS,  
Member of Congress,  
Co-Chair TLHRC.

PARLIAMENTARIANS CALL ON ASEAN LEADERS  
TO ADDRESS THE ROHINGYA CRISIS AND THE  
ESCALATING RISK OF ATROCITY CRIMES IN  
MYANMAR

KUALA LUMPUR.—ASEAN leaders must urgently respond to the escalating crisis situation for Rohingya Muslims and other vulnerable minorities in Myanmar, ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR) said today in a public call on regional governments on the eve of the 26th ASEAN Summit.

In an open letter to ASEAN heads of state, the collective of parliamentarians called for greater recognition of the serious threat the continued persecution of the Rohingya minority represents not only to Myanmar, but to all of ASEAN. APHR also called for an independent investigation into the growing crisis and the deployment of ASEAN monitors in the lead up to elections scheduled for later this year.

"The growing risk of atrocity crimes in Myanmar represents a direct threat to ASEAN nations, both because of the security risks and economic strains it poses for all ASEAN member states, and because it undermines our shared commitment to protecting all people from persecution and violence," said Charles Santiago, APHR's Chairperson and a member of the Malaysian Parliament.

"We are standing on the precipice of a great tragedy. ASEAN as a grouping as well as individual national leaders have the responsibility, both morally and under international law, to act to prevent atrocity crimes and crimes against humanity from taking place."

APHR MPs travelled in early April to Myanmar to see the situation first hand and were alarmed by the proliferation of hate speech and extremist language that the state is turning a blind eye to.

The findings of that mission, combined with further long-term independent research by established human rights organizations, were compiled into the APHR report, *The Rohingya Crisis and the Risk of Atrocities in Myanmar: An ASEAN Challenge and Call to Action*, released today. The report highlights the deteriorating situation for Myanmar's already vulnerable minorities and the escalating risk of atrocity crimes.

"Our delegation identified several troubling signs of anti-Muslim rhetoric and broader incitement to violence, which are likely to increase in the lead up to elections," the parliamentarians wrote in their open letter to ASEAN leaders.

"There is no possible conclusion other than that the Myanmar government is at best allowing and at worst encouraging this very dangerous and systematic persecution of Rohingya and other religious and ethnic minorities, in direct contravention of international human rights laws," Santiago added.

APHR's report analyzes current dynamics based on indicators included in the UN Framework for Analysis of Atrocity Crimes, including specific indicators of the risk of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.

Among the indicators in the case of Myanmar is the intense discrimination and persecution of Rohingya. As the report details, Rohingya face severe restrictions on all aspects of daily life in their native Rakhine State. Tens of thousands still live in IDP camps more than two years after deadly inter-communal violence, and thousands more have fled by sea—often at the mercy of human traffickers.

U Shwe Maung, a Rohingya member of Myanmar's parliament, declared that, "the situation is already dire, and I fear what is coming may be much worse. The unwillingness of many in Myanmar to even recognize the word 'Rohingya' is particularly troubling."

The report also highlights concerning indicators for other minority populations in the country, including widening anti-Muslim sentiment throughout Myanmar and persistent human rights abuses perpetrated by the Myanmar Army with impunity against ethnic minority groups in Kachin and northern Shan States.

The report and open letter represent a collective call to action for ASEAN leaders to prioritize the issue at the upcoming ASEAN Summit and future meetings and to take other measures to combat the crisis.

"ASEAN's leaders have a role to play in mitigating the risk of atrocity crimes in Myanmar," said Irine Yusiana Roba, a member of parliament from Indonesia. "Working through existing regional mechanisms, including the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights, they can strengthen their response. But it must begin with a recognition that the issue impacts all of us and deserves to be prioritized."

In appreciation of the need for a coordinated international response, the co-chairs of the U.S. House of Representatives' Human Rights Commission sent a letter to APHR congratulating its members on the report's release and expressing interest in working with them to address the crisis facing Rohingya in Myanmar.

As the report concludes: "APHR will remain focused on the escalating crisis and determined to draw the attention and action of ASEAN's leaders." Parliamentarians are committed to continuing their push for action, working with allies around the globe, including members of the U.S. Congress, to secure a robust response to the crisis.

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The longstanding persecution of the Rohingya Muslim minority in Myanmar has led to the highest outflow of asylum seekers by sea since the U.S. war in Vietnam. Human rights violations against Rohingya have resulted in a regional human trafficking epidemic, and there have been further abuses against Rohingya upon their arrival in other Southeast Asian countries.

This protracted culture of abuse threatens Myanmar's political transition, puts strains on regional economies, and supports the rise of extremist ideologies that pose potential security threats throughout the region. Ongoing human rights abuses against Rohingya pose a threat to regional peace and security and must end.

Broader anti-Muslim rhetoric and violence has also flared up in locations across Myanmar in recent years. These incidents, as well as ongoing abuses against ethnic minority groups throughout the country pose similar risks for Myanmar and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

In April 2015, ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR), an organization of members of parliament from several ASEAN countries, conducted a fact-finding mission in Myanmar. APHR is deeply concerned about the current dynamics there and how they affect the region and the broader global community. APHR is equally concerned with the failure of ASEAN nations to adequately respond.

Critical national elections in Myanmar are slated for the end of 2015. APHR has found an alarmingly high risk of atrocities against Rohingya, other Muslims, and other ethnic minority groups in the lead up to the elec-

tion. These risks constitute a regional concern, not only due to potential cross-border spillover effects, but also because ASEAN member states share a moral responsibility to take all possible measures to prevent the commission of atrocities within ASEAN.

Despite these troubling realities, the Rohingya issue remains conspicuously absent from the agenda of the ASEAN Summit. ASEAN and other global leaders ignore these dynamics at their own peril. The Rohingya crisis and broader animosity toward other Muslims and ethnic minorities in Myanmar are not just a Myanmar problem—they are an ASEAN problem.

Nearly every common risk factor for atrocity crimes identified in the United Nations' Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes is present in Myanmar today. This report draws upon APHR's collective knowledge to analyze the situation in Myanmar within the context of this United Nations' Framework. Based on this analysis, it is clear that there is a high risk of ongoing atrocity crimes in Myanmar in 2015 and beyond.

#### CALL TO ACTION

The crises in Myanmar, including the persecution of Rohingya, anti-Muslim violence, and systematic abuses against other ethnic minorities, are not only a problem for Myanmar, they are a problem for all of ASEAN. The risk factors and specific indicators enumerated in this report, including those for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, demonstrate a high risk of atrocity crimes in Myanmar in the year ahead. Such crimes threaten to undermine the human rights standards and common dignity of ASEAN citizens. They also threaten to spill over borders and affect the economic and physical security of neighboring countries.

APHR will remain focused on the escalating crisis and determined to draw the attention and action of ASEAN's leaders. This report is more than a detailed listing of warning signs. It also represents a call to action to prevent the further escalation and perpetration of atrocity crimes that will affect Myanmar and the entire region.

We call upon ASEAN's leaders to take the following actions:

Recognize the escalating crisis in Rakhine State and the plight of Rohingya as a serious danger to both Myanmar and ASEAN by prioritizing the issue in Summit meetings.

Conduct an independent investigation of conditions and risks of increased violence and displacement in Myanmar, as well as associated risks to ASEAN, including greater refugee flows to countries like Malaysia and Thailand.

Expand the mandate of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) to include country visits, inquiries, complaints, and emergency protection mechanisms, and ensure adequate independence and staffing support for its members. Engage AICHR to conduct a follow-up investigation into the Rohingya crisis.

Deploy ASEAN monitors well ahead of the Myanmar elections to observe and report on the Rohingya crisis and broader anti-Muslim and ethnic minority dynamics.

Utilize existing mechanisms in ASEAN, such as the ASEAN Troika, AICHR, the office of the ASEAN Secretary General, and the role of the ASEAN Chair, to respond appropriately to humanitarian crises in member states in accordance with the principles of the ASEAN Charter and the ASEAN Declaration on Human Rights.

Commit to protecting those fleeing the crisis in Rakhine State, including by granting prima facie refugee status to Rohingya and providing the UN refugee agency with unfettered access to asylum seekers.



Ratify the 1951 Refugee Convention.

Strengthen and expand the mandate of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) to help combat threats to women's rights, including those presented by the "Protection of Race and Religion Bills" and other Myanmar government policies that restrict rights, particularly for ethnic and religious minority women.

Call upon the Myanmar government to adhere to regional and international human rights and humanitarian standards, including by rejecting the "Protection of Race and Religion Bills."

Call upon the Myanmar government to address the root causes of the Rohingya crisis by amending the 1982 Citizenship Law to provide Rohingya with equal access to full citizenship, promoting reconciliation initiatives, denouncing hate speech and propaganda, and holding perpetrators of violence, including government officials, accountable.

#### RECOGNIZING CHRISTIAN LANCE'S MISSOURI CLASS 4 HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Christian Lance, a Nixa High School senior, on capturing the 2015 Class 4 Wrestling State Championship.

Christian reached this impressive feat during the February 21 championship with a 56-1 record for the season. At 220 pounds, with this Class 4 championship win, Lance captured the eighth state title for the Nixa High School Eagles.

Though this may be his first state championship, Lance has been no stranger to high achievement during his six-year stint in wrestling. As a freshman, Christian weighed in at only 120 pounds. Since then, he has wrestled in almost every weight class, working his way up to the coveted State Champion position.

In the 2014 wrestling season, just one year before his impressive feat, Lance was a finalist in many conferences and, at 182 pounds, took fifth place in the Missouri High School Class 4 Championships.

Christian Lance's exemplary devotion and remarkable improvements during his time as a Nixa High School wrestler are testaments of his hard work and dedication. The Nixa community, I'm confident, is proud of Christian and his Class 4 State Championship. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on his well-deserved victory.

#### HONORING NEW MEXICO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

**HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 23 high school students from Moriarty High School that will represent New Mexico this month in the We the People National Finals, a three day civics competition on the U.S.

Constitution. During the competition these exceptional students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of constitutional principles in simulated congressional hearings before panels of judges.

Since its inception in 1987, more than 30 million students have benefitted from participating in the We The People program of constitutional study. The program divides students into teams where they are able to learn together and challenge each other. Surveys have shown that these students are more civic minded, politically active and have a better understanding of how government functions.

Moriarty High School won the We the People New Mexico state competition to earn a spot in this month's National Finals. I commend these students, and their dedicated teachers and coaches for participating in this instructional program that helps students learn about participating in government as effective, responsible citizens.

School: Moriarty High School.

Teacher: Amy Page.

Students: Martin Andazola, Audrianna Aragon, Nicholas Arellano, April Arguello, Katherine Arnold, Joshua Berson, Robert Castle, Samantha Chavez, Ethan Delora, Sarah Elliott, Marion Gerhart, Shannon Goldrick, Christopher Gonzales, Haley Hamblin, Troy Jack, Frances Licon, Regina McCleave, Matthew Mink, Savanna Nelson, Logan Smyth, Melissa Summers, Alexandru West, Grant Windsor.

I congratulate these outstanding students and thank them for their contributions to New Mexico.

#### TRIBUTE TO VICTIMS OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to submit these additional names of Armenians who lost their lives in the Armenian Genocide from 1915 to 1923. We will never forget their names and their stories and we will continue to speak the truth in the face of denial.

Asadur Arabyan, Arax Arabyan, Zvart Kureghian, Deradour Harmandayan, Kveh Gasparian, Gohar Kirakosian, Vasilika Kirakosyan, Zabel Kirakosian, Karapet Gasparian, Mariam Yeritsyan, Arakel Arakelyan, Makartich Ter-Hakopian, Nicholas Chavshudian, Mary Chavshudian, Avedis Kilisian, Mari Shirinian, Arsen Pashgian, Haiganoush Mandjikian, Krikor Kaakedjian, Gadar Chaparian, Takouhi Baghoyan, Ani Hidirsa, Haygaz Baghoyan, Parsegh Baghoyan, Hagop Zilifian, Helen Manoyan, Boghos Manoyan, Krikor Zilifian, Jovannes Kabbendjian, Vahan Hakobyan, Haykaz Sarkissyan, Lucia Baghdasaryan, Sara Galtakian, Arutyun Gelejian, Tagvor Dadurian, Araxsi Dadurian, Alina Dadurian, Hmiyak Dadurian, Nishan Chaderjian, Nishan Chaderjian, Maritza Chaderjian, Martha Margosian, Gulenia Havounjian, Tonapet Yeritsyan, Hovsep Sarkissian, Armenuhi Balian, Vahram Ghiragossian, Hagop Kouyoumdjian, Mary Kouyoumdjian, Vartivar Berberian, Yaghsapet Berberian, Hagop Pessayan, Mary Pessayan, Armen Dedeyan, Simon Terzian, Satenik Lusparyan, Hripsime

Lusparyan, Artavazd Tumanyan, Nikolaj Safrazbekyan, Levon Safrazbekyan, Rebecca Margossian, Toros Margossianmy, Sarkis Panpalian, Vartan Vartanian, Hanna Gulian, Haroutioun Kapralian, Ana Kapralian, Flore Kapralian, Baghdassar Avedikian, Ohaness Aslanian, Isgouhi Zhamgochian Derounian, Hagop Terzian, Nishan Chaderjian, Maritza Chaderjian, Hagop Chaparian, Artin Chaparian, Hampartsoum Piligian, Hovanness Piligian, Haroutune Piligian, Pilig Piligian, Kevork Chaparian, Movses Kavarian, Megerdich Kavarian, Khatoon Kavarian, Joseph Hanna, Danho Kavarian, Hagop Kradjian, Deekran Kradjian, Nazaret Oglo, Dikran Svazlian, Hagop Bodoorian, Garabed Chilingirian, Toukham Zoroghlian, Touma Zoroghlian, Garabed Zoroghlian, Hovhanness Zoroghlian, Loucine Zoroghlian, Garabed Zoroghlian, Nshan Ter-Saakyan, Hovhanness Tngozian, Karapet Grigoryan, Parantzem Garavanian, Abkar Badalian, Karapet Grigoryan, Parantzem Garavanian, Abkar Badalian, Jeyran Badalian, Manuk Hamamchyan, Sarhad Kocharian, John Hovig Yeressian, Kerop Tsaxikyan, Tatos Ghazazian, Yervand Urghatbashian, Margaret Urghatbashian, Caspar Mardirossian, Sinam Yeranossian, Hovakim Ahramjian, Beghekia Ahramjian, Arsen Avedikian, Acabi Avedikian, Zarmandought Ahramjian, Yevkine Ahramjian, Arousiag Ahramjian, Khoren Aharonian, Raphael Bahde, Joseph Moukhtar, George Moukhtar, Francis Moukhtar, George Farra, Melcon Movsessian, Melkon Movsessian, Dr. Ovsia Hekimian, Tavit Tavitian, Antaram Hovanesian, Sarkis Hovanesian, Galust Jermakyan, Hamardzum Jermakyan, Vrej Jermakyan, Toros Jermakyan, Mania Jermakyan, Levon Jermakyan, Aram Jermakyan, Siranush Alexanian, Grigo Alexanian, Maquhi Alexanian, Maquhi Alexanian, Avak Der-Avakian, Hana Soghomonian, Malaka Soghomonian, Isahak Ekshian, Mariam Ekshian, Arsen Kostanyan, Yegish Grigoryan, Krikor Shahinian, Khanum Nalbanian Shahinian, Anna Garabedian, Airapet Tumanyan, Lucine Maghakian Adanalian, Stepan Boyajian, Stepan Boyajian, Hossep Melkisetian, Parsegh Shahbaz, Ardashes Haroutunian, Jack Sayabalian (Paylag), Krikor Torosian, Kegham Parseghian, Dikran Cheogurian, Shavarsh Kurisian, Krikor Yesayan, Aris Israyelian, Mihran Tabakian, Hagop Terzian, Arisdages Kasbarian, Haroutiun G. Jangulian, Bedros Kalfayan, Haroutiun Kalfayan, Edwar Beyazian, Yenovk Shahen, Nerses Papazian, Nerses Zakarian, Dr. Sdepan Miskjian, Dr. Levon Bardizbanian, Vramshabooh Arabian, Nerses Shahnoor, Serovpe Noradoongian, Karekin Husian, Mardiros H. Koondakjian, Krikor Armoonian, Boghos Tanielian, Megerdich Garabedian, Apraham Hayrigian, Levon Aghababian, Kevork Terjimanian, Dikran Ashkharooni, Kevork Diratsooyan, Mihtad Haygazn, Rosdom Rosdomian, Vramshabooh Samuelian, Arshag Khazkhazian, Mrgdrich Sdepanian, Levon Shashian, Paroonag Feroukhan, Onnig Maghazajian, Teodor Mendzigian, Varteres Atanasian, Apig Jambaz, Vahram Altoonian, Yerchanig Aram, Nerses D. Kevorkian, Onnig Sribian, Partogh Zorian, Akrig Kerestejian, Melkon Piosian, Pilibbos Chilingirian, Haroutiun Konialian, Vahan Jamjian, Haroutiun Kalfaian, Hovhanness Kelejian, Sdepan Kurkjian, Dikran Sarkisian, Barooyr Arzoomanian, Haig Derderian, Mirijan



Artinian, Hampartsum Balasan, Vahan Kehaian, Ardashes Ferahian, Artin Meserlian, Armenag Arakelian, Mihran Pasdurmajian, Neshan Nahabedian, Yeghia Suzigian, Bedros Kurdian, Diran Yerganian, Asadoor Madteosian, Yervant Chavooshian, Hagop Shahbaz, Sarkis Kaligian, Garabed Reyisian, Kevork Kopooshian, Krikor Ohnigian, Aram Ohnigian, Karekin Ohnigian, Hovhannes Keoleian, Dikran Baghdigian, Hovhannes Cheogurian, Dr. Benne Torosian, Aram Achukbashian, Kegham Vanigian, Yervant Topoozian, Roupen Garabedian, Hovhannes Der Ghazarian, Tovmas Tovmasian, Hagop Basmajian, Moorad Zakarian, Megerdich Yeretsian, Karekin Boghosian, Armenag Hampartsoumian, Yeremia Manoogian, Apraham Mooradian, Minas Keshishian, Sumpad Kulujian, Karnig Boyajian, Herand Yegavian, Boghos Boghosian, Herand Aghajanian, Garabed Patoogian, Khoren Khorenian, Amasiatsi Krikor Kayian, Vramian Onnig Tertsagian, Ardashes Solakian, A. Proodian, Garabed Dantian, Haygag Yeremishian, Tulgadintsi, Prof. Garabed Soghigian, Prof. Megerdich Vorperian, Prof. Hovhannes Boujikianian, Prof. Nigoghos Tenekejian, Prof. Khachadour Nahigian, Prof. Donabed Lulejian, Jirair Hagopian, Hovhannes Dingilian, Hovhannes Aghanigian, Aram Srabian, Armen Onanian, Hovsep Malemezian, Kegham Samuelian, Kapriel Tanielian, Karnig Gosdanian, Hagop Dinjian, Armen Hovagimian, Asadour Jamgochian, Hovhannes Zartarian, Kevork Keleshian, Hagop Shoushanian, Setrag Dulgerian, Aram Dabaghian, Haroutiun Semerjian, Sarkis Eljanian, Mihran Isbirian, Senekerim Kalyonjian, Moorad Derderian, Garabed Barsamian, Karnig Toughlajian, Manuel Dedeian, Levon Kantarian, Aram Hagopian, Khachadour Grdodan, Michael Frengulian, Roupen Rakoubian, Hampartsoom Blejian, Vahan Husisian, Nazaret Husisian, Hemayag Karageozian, Israel Ozanian, Dajad Chebookjian, Levon Karageozian, Hmayag Margosian, Hmaia Karibian, Ardashig Boornazian, Hagop Boornazian, Arshag Kizirian, Hovhannes Boghosian, Antranig Bozajian, Aram Adrouni, Aram Shesheian, Hurach Loosparonian, Megerdich Asdourian, Tsitoghtsi Setrag Varjabed, Partogh Odabashian, Kaloosd Garabedian, Vahan Kasbarian, V. Rev. Fr. Garabed Lariyan, V. Rev. Fr. Yeprem Liforian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Lousararian, Rev. Fr. Yezras Lousararian, V. Rev. Fr. Movses Madoyan, Rev. Fr. Krikor Madteosian, Rev. Fr. Haroutiun Malkhassian, V. Rev. Fr. Parsegh Mangerian, Rev. Fr. Atte Manougian, Rev. Fr. Krisdapor Manougian, Rev. Fr. Madteos Manougian.

KAMELIA VICK

## HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kamelia Vick for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kamelia Vick is an 11th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kamelia Vick is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kamelia Vick for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

ANNIVERSARY OF YOM  
HA'ATZMAUT, ISRAEL'S INDE-  
PENDENCE DAY

## HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the anniversary of the creation of the State of Israel, known as Yom Ha'atzmaut, a day on which we celebrate its establishment and growth, and recognize the fortitude of the Israeli people.

For 67 years, Israel has stood as a shining example of freedom and democracy in a region plagued by violence and oppression. Since President Harry S. Truman famously recognized the nascent state only 11 minutes after its founding, our two nations have shared the common bonds of democracy, economic vitality, and cultural affinity, tied together in an unbreakable friendship based on religious kinships and mutual interests.

As a Member of Congress, I have been honored to travel to Israel 15 times and never cease to be impressed by the strength of Israel and its people. I will continue to do all that I can in Congress to ensure that Israelis have a secure and peaceful homeland. It is my sincere hope that through diplomatic efforts the future will bring a fair solution that enables both Israelis and Palestinians to live in peace and prosperity. I wish the people and government of Israel a Chag Sameach, a happy holiday.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

## HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, April 23, 2015, I was attending an event with Vice President BIDEN to raise awareness and help prevent campus sexual assault. This event was part of the "It's On Us" campaign and was held on the campus of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign located in the 13th Congressional District which I am proud to represent.

As the father of a daughter who will be a college freshman next year, this issue is very personal to me. I am so proud of the students and faculty at the University of Illinois, as well as other campuses across the country, for stepping up and taking a stand against sexual assault.

Due to my participation in this important event with Vice President BIDEN and my con-

stituents, I was unable to cast votes in the House on April 23, 2015.

JUSTYCELYNN BUCHANAN

## HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Justycelynn Buchanan for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Justycelynn Buchanan is an 8th grader at North Arvada Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Justycelynn Buchanan is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Justycelynn Buchanan for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ALICE  
TREGAY

## HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Alice Tregay.

Alice Tregay was not only a dear friend of mine; she was a role model and mentor to many over five decades. She poured her heart and soul into promoting social justice: advocating on behalf of poor people in Chicago, registering literally tens of thousands of voters over the years, managing high-profile political campaigns and more.

She began her activism in 1964 when she joined the protest against Chicago Public Schools Superintendent Ben Willis and his infamous "Willis Wagons", which perpetuated segregation and an inferior learning environment. In the end, not only were the wagons shut down, but Superintendent was also removed from his post. Alice also fought alongside well-known figures like Al Raby and Dick Gregory in this winning battle.

Alice marched with Dr. Martin Luther King for open housing in Chicago, and when Dr. King's Operation Breadbasket began operations in Chicago, Alice worked hand in hand with Rev. Jesse Jackson to put the organization together. She started the Political Education Division at Operation Breadbasket, training thousands of students over a five year period. Alice was an integral part of that organization, now called the Rainbow Push Coalition, each day since then.

She also served as an essential staff member of many campaigns including Congressman Abner Mikva, Jesse Jackson Sr., Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr., Mayor Harold Washington, and President Jimmy Carter.

The best words to describe Alice are “tireless” and “persistent.” Alice impacted so many lives as an organizer, educator, and change-maker. She gave a voice to those who are too frequently ignored. She provided the tools to engage and equip generations of activists, including me. I owe much to my precious friend, Alice Tregay. My heartfelt prayers and thoughts are with her family. She will be sorely missed.

# 67TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

## HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 67th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel. This anniversary represents 67 years in which there has been a strong, independent, and democratic State of Israel; 67 years of growth, advancement, and modernization. But, unfortunately, it also means that for 67 years the only Jewish state in the world has repeatedly had to defend itself from enemies who seek her annihilation.

Yesterday, Israel commemorated Yom Ha'zikharon, Israel's Memorial Day. For a country in which most of its citizens have served in the Israeli Defense Force and have proudly defended their country, this day is a personal reminder that their 67 years have not been without significant personal sacrifice. From the moment of its birth, Israel has endured attacks by state armies and terrorist organizations. More recently, these attacks have taken a new shape, in the form of economic boycotts, lawfare, and political de-legitimization campaigns.

But 67 years later, Israel remains standing, proudly, as the shining beacon of democracy in the Middle East.

This is an important day for the Israeli people and people all over the world to reflect on how far this country has come in such a short period. It has transformed desert into fertile land, developed one of the most innovative and vibrant technology sectors in the world, and stood steadfastly on a foundation of democratic principles and basic fundamental liberties.

I am proud to say that it was also 67 years ago, only minutes after David Ben-Gurion announced Israel's declaration of independence, that the United States recognized the nascent state. Since 1948, our two countries have shared a strong, unshakeable bond based on shared values and goals. And the United States and Israel will continue to stand together as Israel pursues peace, and as Israel confronts any threat to her people. It is my commitment as a Member of Congress to ensure that our partnership remains strong and unbreakable. As President Bill Clinton wrote, “We are proud of the strong bond we have forged with Israel, based on our shared values and ideals. That unique relationship will endure just as Israel has endured.”

JORDAN GONZALEZ

## HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jordan Gonzalez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jordan Gonzalez is an 8th grader at North Arvada Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jordan Gonzalez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jordan Gonzalez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

## IN HONOR OF DR. BEVERLY DANIEL TATUM

## HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum, President of Spelman College, who will be retiring after thirteen years as distinguished leader of the school. She will be honored at a farewell reception on Friday, April 24, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. at The Spelman College Suites Dining Hall on campus.

Born on September 27, 1954, in Tallahassee, Florida, Dr. Tatum attended Wesleyan University, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. Afterward, she attended the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, for a Master of Arts degree and a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, and then Hartford Seminary for a Master of Arts degree in Religious Studies.

Dr. Tatum's professional involvement in higher education began in 1980 and spanned a number of prominent institutions. At the University of California at Santa Barbara, she lectured in the Department of Black Studies, and later held professorships in psychology at Westfield State College and Mount Holyoke College. Also during her time at Mount Holyoke, Dr. Tatum served as chair of the Department of Psychology and Education. In 1998, she became Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of the College and, in 2002, she was appointed acting president of the College.

In the meantime, she also advanced a career as a distinguished clinical psychologist with her own independent practice between 1988 and 1998. Focusing her studies on diversity in organizational development and racial identity, she is the author of *Can We Talk About Race?* And Other Conversations in an Era of School Resegregation; *Assimilation Blues: Black Families in White Communities: Who Succeeds and Why?*; and *Why Are All*

the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?” And Other Conversations about Race, the latter of which was celebrated as the 1998 Multicultural Book of the Year by the National Association of Multicultural Education.

In 2002, she was appointed president of Spelman College. Through her steady and transformational leadership, the institution now ranks among the top 100 liberal arts colleges in the country. Faculty research has flourished, and funding for student scholarships has tripled since 2002. Alumnae contributions to the annual fund have also tripled and a generous gift donation in 2008 helped establish the Gordon-Zeto Fund for International Initiatives, providing critical resources for international students as well as travel support for faculty and students alike.

In addition to these successes, Dr. Tatum has overseen the expansion of on-campus housing capacity by more than 25 percent to provide opportunities for even more students, made possible in part by the construction of a “green” residence hall in 2008. As president, she also made the landmark decision to end the College's limited participation in NCAA intercollegiate sports, and instead pioneer a campus wellness initiative to encompass a wider range of students.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Tatum is not only an educator, she is an innovator. The developments she engineered serve as the foundation of Spelman College's Strategic Plan for 2015, which focuses on supporting leadership and service, enhancing an interdisciplinary curriculum, fostering undergraduate research and internships, strengthening alumnae-student connections, promoting sustainability, and advancing global initiatives.

Outside of this tremendous scholastic dedication, Dr. Tatum is also actively involved in the community. She has presided on a variety of boards and served with a number of organizations at the local, state, and national levels. Moreover, she was appointed by President Barack Obama to serve on the Advisory Board for the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. She has received numerous awards and commendations, including the 2013 Carnegie Academic Leadership Award. Dr. Tatum shares her life and accomplishments with her husband, Dr. Travis Tatum, and their two sons, Travis Jonathan and David.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum for her thirteen remarkable years as President of Spelman College. Her leadership is impressive in itself but more than structures, more than money, and more than rankings, she advanced the very character of the institution through its people. In being a role model for the young women of this premier institution, she has helped countless individuals strive to fulfill their sincere potential in this world, making the aims of Spelman College become realized.

## HONORING PUERTAS ABIERTAS COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

## HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Puertas Abiertas

Community Resource Center as it celebrates its 10th Anniversary of offering educational programs and advocacy services to support personal growth and family stability in the Latino community throughout Napa County.

Ten years ago, the Center opened its doors on Napa Street as an independent non-profit organization dedicated to helping provide culturally sensitive intake and referral services in order to bridge the gap between community service providers and the Latino community. In fact, the Center's services are available to anyone in the community—regardless of ethnicity, race, or language. In achieving these goals, the Center partners with numerous other organizations in the area and its programs range from Case Mentoring and ESL training to Free Tax Preparation and Zumba. The Puertas Abiertas Center serves over 500 families a year.

The Center's focus on helping connect residents and services through a culturally sensitive intake and referral process helps make Napa County's diverse population stronger and better prepared to take advantage of our community's resources.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that we recognize the Puertas Abiertas Community Resource Center for all they do to increase access to vital community services. On behalf of a grateful community, we honor and thank the Puertas Abiertas Community Resource Center today.

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KARA MCCONNELL

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kara McConnell for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kara McConnell is an 8th grader at North Arvada Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kara McConnell is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kara McConnell for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

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KINGWOOD HIGH SCHOOL OBSERVES NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Crime Victims' Rights Week. In Congress, we observed this week by hosting the Victims' Rights Caucus Awards.

The Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, founded by JIM COSTA from California and me from Texas, came together to form the bipartisan caucus.

This week, the Victims' Rights Caucus recognized the tenacious individuals who dedicate their time and efforts in supporting crime victims.

But this week was also commemorated back in Texas. Kingwood High School observed National Crime Victims' Rights Week for the first time.

Under their fearless leader, criminal justice teacher Janet Collins, a former Dallas County probation officer, Kingwood High School heard from community warriors who work every day to protect and support victims.

My good friend, Sheriff Adrian Garcia, was Monday's headline speaker (who just so happened to receive our Victims' Rights Award at last year's Victims' Rights Caucus Awards). Kingwood High School students heard the best testimonies straight from the source.

Exposing our students to real-life situations in combination with education is so important. Teaching our students how prevalent crime is and ways to prevent it can only benefit our communities. What a great way to start a young group of victims' advocates.

It makes me proud to know that our school students are building good character and learning more about the Crime Victims Movement. Supporting victims is something that Americans can do at any age.

Janet Collins should be commended for her leadership and pioneering of National Crime Victims' Rights Week in our schools.

It is encouraging to see National Crimes Victims' Rights Week being observed not only in Congress, but in our education system throughout the Nation.

And that is just the way it is.

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JULIA VAZQUEZ-PETERSON

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Julia Vazquez-Peterson for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Julia Vazquez-Peterson is an 8th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Julia Vazquez-Peterson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Julia Vazquez-Peterson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING ANIMAL EDUCATION AND RESCUE

**HON. ROBERT J. DOLD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, April is Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month, so I would like to take this opportunity to rise in recognition of Animal Education and Rescue, a humane society in the 10th District. Founder and director Sandy Wisniewski has dedicated herself to improving the lives of both animals and people in our community.

Ms. Wisniewski works to prevent cruelty to animals by educating the public through school and community center visits. Her curriculum emphasizes the need to properly care for pets. She understands the strong correlation between animal abuse and other violent crimes, and she seeks to break the cycle of violence through education. As a humane investigator, Ms. Wisniewski responds to reports of animal abuse and neglect. She often rescues these neglected animals and places them with foster families until they find permanent homes. Her work is vital to our community.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month, I am pleased to recognize AEAR and Ms. Wisniewski. I am grateful for their work and wish them continued success.

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HONORING MURRAY JANOFF

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Murray Janoff of Boca Raton, Florida, who turns 100 years old on April 26, 2015.

Murray was born in Bronx, New York in 1915. He graduated from New York University with a degree in journalism and had a long and distinguished career writing for the Long Island Press's sports section, the Associated Press, U.P.I., and Reuters. Murray served in the Navy during World War II receiving several merits with the highest being a Bronze Star medal. Murray was married 52 years to his late wife and is proud of his three children, five grandchildren, and six great grandchildren.

Murray is an exceptional man, and one who I am proud to represent in Florida's 22nd District. I know I join with his friends and family in celebrating this wonderful milestone. I wish him good health and continued success in the coming year.

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JORDAN DELITZ

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jordan Delitz for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jordan Delitz

is a 12th grader at Wheat Ridge High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jordan Delitz is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jordan Delitz for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

#### CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF TRITON COLLEGE

### HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, in the competitive workplace of today, higher education is more important than ever. I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of Triton College in River Grove, Illinois.

Since opening its doors in September of 1965, Triton has been one of the nation's premier two year colleges. Every semester, Triton provides over 12,000 students with the tools they need to be successful at a 4 year school, their careers, and in life.

Since its inception, Triton has provided over 50,000 degrees and certificates helping to create a more educated workforce. With tuition rates on the rise, 2 year institutions have become one of our most important assets in self advancement. By offering quality education at an affordable rate, students have opportunities they would not otherwise have. As a former professor, I can appreciate the outstanding work Triton has done preparing its students for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Triton College. I am truly honored to have such an exceptional institution of higher education in my district.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST GRAY WOLF MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2015

### HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce my legislation, the Pacific Northwest Gray Wolf Management Act of 2015. This legislation would remove the Gray Wolf from the "List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife" under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and return management authority for the species back to our Pacific Northwest states. A proposed rule released by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in June of 2013 found that the Gray Wolf population has grown substantially and is now considered to be recovered, and therefore, does

not merit protection under the Endangered Species Act.

State governments are fully qualified to responsibly manage Gray Wolf populations and are better to meet the needs of local communities, ranchers, livestock, and wildlife populations. Delisting the Gray Wolf would allow state wildlife officials to more effectively manage wolf populations. We have seen that this is possible in states such as Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan and we should allow Pacific Northwest States the same flexibility to manage these populations. This commonsense and straightforward bill would allow states to provide a more practical management program than the one currently in place by the federal government. I urge all members to join me in supporting this legislation.

#### ROCKY MOUNTAIN METROPOLITAN AIRPORT

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and applaud Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport for their leadership and commitment to Jefferson County.

Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport (RMMA), located between downtown Denver and Boulder, serves as a major economic engine for the region's aviation industry. The airport supports 2,670 jobs with an annual payroll of more than \$153 million, and creates \$460 million in economic activity each year. RMMA serves as a reliever airport for Denver International Airport (DIA) and international travelers at the airport have access to an on-site U.S. customs office that operates 24-hours per day. The absence of landing fees at the airport makes clearing U.S. customs easy and cost effective. RMMA houses many corporate aviation facilities, flight schools, and government offices, including: Pilatus Business Aircraft, HeliOps, and HeliQwest.

Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport also has plans to expand their operation in the Verve Innovation Park, a site which sits strategically between downtown Denver and Boulder and is a perfect location near a highly educated workforce and with airport runway access and hangar space for corporate jets.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport for their well-deserved Chairman's Choice Award and their continued contribution to Jefferson County.

#### HONORING AL TAUBMAN

### HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, this week, Michigan lost a true giant.

Alfred Taubman was a great businessman who revolutionized the way America shops, but he will forever be remembered as a passionate philanthropist whose generosity touched lives in our state and around the world.

Al Taubman cared deeply about Michigan. He cared about people. And his contributions made our communities stronger and more vibrant, our schools and universities more innovative, and our research institutes more prepared to find cures for the most devastating diseases we face.

His generosity made possible the Taubman Medical Research Institute at the University of Michigan. He supported the Detroit Institute of Arts and helped improve design education at Detroit's College for Creative Studies. And he contributed actively to schools and universities across our region, including Wayne State University and his alma mater Lawrence Technological University, among many others.

Al Taubman changed Michigan for the better, and while he will be greatly missed, his vision and generosity will live on in the many lives he touched.

In the words of his son, Robert, Al Taubman was a "great American story." He is right. And all of us in Michigan are so glad that he was ours.

#### JONALYNN SELL

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jonalynn Sell for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jonalynn Sell is an 11th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jonalynn Sell is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jonalynn Sell for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF ZION HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH'S 134TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my sincere congratulations to the congregation of Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Cusseta, Georgia as the church's membership and leadership celebrate a remarkable 134 years. The congregation of Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church, in conjunction with Green Hill Missionary Baptist Church, will celebrate this very significant anniversary with a celebration on Sunday, April 26, 2015 at 2:30 p.m. at the Church in Cusseta, Georgia.

Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church's remarkable journey and growth as a church

began in 1882 on the intersecting county lines of Marion and Chattahoochee Counties in Southwest Georgia. Reverend Shed Thornton is the first known pastor to lead Zion Hill. Other pastors to follow would include Reverend Jackson, Reverend Mathis, Reverend Davis, Reverend Chinn, Reverend Gates, and Reverend Campbell. Reverend Carter then pastored the church for thirty-six years, followed by Reverend Baker, who pastored for over sixteen years.

Reverend Willie E. Neal then became the Pastor of Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church and in his twenty-two years of leadership, he worked tirelessly to expand the church. Under his careful eye, the current Fellowship Hall was built, and new pulpit furnishings, new pews, and the indoor baptismal pool were installed.

In 1987, the church was incorporated and attendance continued to grow. The church added classes for children and young adults to its Sunday school program. After the church established a youth choir ministry and youth usher ministry, it became a full-time Gospel church, holding services every Sunday.

After the Reverend Frederick D. Harris took over the leadership, the church began making some structural improvements. New carpet was installed in the sanctuary, the pews were covered, the fellowship hall was outfitted with new tile, and new tables, chairs, and kitchen appliances were added. A new sound system was installed and finally, a steeple was added to the top of the sanctuary, inviting members of the community to come praise and worship the Lord at Zion Hill.

It was during this time that Rev. Harris also implemented a new Wednesday class to increase spiritual growth. After Rev. Harris was called to relocate to Maryland, the Reverend Clarence R. Barnes then took over the leadership of Zion Hill. Sadly, due to medical reasons, Rev. Barnes had to resign in November 2014.

Along with pastors, there have also been many deacons who influenced and guided the church. Some of the most notable include Deacon James Williams, who contributed the church flags, and Deacon Willie J. Short, who built the current Sanctuary.

Throughout the past 134 years, Zion Hill Missionary Baptist has become a spiritual home for many. Advancements in both the actual structure of the church building as well as the church body were made to better accommodate the divine growth emanating from the hearts and spirits of many pastors, deacons, and church members. The story of Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church is truly an inspiring one of the dedication and perseverance of a faithful congregation of people who put all their love and trust in the Lord.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Cusseta, Georgia for their long history of coming together through the good and difficult times to praise and worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

JOSEPH BOULANGER

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Joseph Bou-

langer for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Joseph Boulanger is an 8th grader at Arvada K-8 and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Joseph Boulanger is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Joseph Boulanger for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I was detained for votes on Tuesday, April 21st. Had I been present and voting, I would have voted AYE on Roll Call #162, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to the passing of my mother on April 21, 2015 I had to remain in Texas and was unable to vote on April 21 and April 22, 2015.

On roll call no. 162, had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

On roll call no. 163, had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

On roll call no. 164, had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

On roll call no. 165, had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

On roll call no. 166, had I been present, I would have voted Nay.

On roll call no. 167, had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

On roll call no. 168, had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

On roll call no. 169, had I been present, I would have voted Nay.

On roll call no. 170, had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

JOSEPH BERGMAN

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Joseph Bergman for receiving the Arvada Wheat

Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Joseph Bergman is a 12th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Joseph Bergman is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Joseph Bergman for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF UNITED STATES  
ARMY SERGEANT MATTHEW  
COOKE, RECIPIENT OF THE PUR-  
PLE HEART

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Army Sergeant Matthew Cooke, a recipient of the Purple Heart from North Carolina's 8th Congressional District.

Sergeant Cooke was one of thirty-two wounded during the 2009 shooting at Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas. On November 5, 2009, Nidal Hasan opened fire at the Soldier Readiness Center at Fort Hood, killing 13 people and wounding 32 and without the courageous actions of Sergeant Cooke, the death toll would likely have been higher.

When Sergeant Cooke saw a non-commissioned officer shot in the torso, he draped himself on the higher-ranking soldier to shield him from Hasan. He was shot five times in the act of protecting another's life.

Recovering physically and mentally from the massacre at Fort Hood has been a continuing struggle for Sergeant Cooke. Despite serving two deployments in Iraq, Sergeant Cooke's greatest injuries and selflessness took place on home soil. I am overjoyed that Sergeant Cooke is finally receiving the Purple Heart and well-deserved recognition for his heroic actions.

It is an honor to extend these remarks today to congratulate United States Army Sergeant Matthew Cooke for receiving the Purple Heart and to thank him for his brave and selfless service.

HONORING COMMUNITY PARTNERS  
FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

**HON. ROBERT J. DOLD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Community Partners for Affordable Housing for the exceptional progress they have made in providing the basic human need of housing to those struggling to afford its rising costs.

Partnering with the cities of Highland Park, Evanston and Lake Forest, CPAH addresses

affordable housing collaboratively, operating the first community land trust program in Illinois.

CPAH preserves communities' existing housing stock by rehabilitating problematic or blighted properties. This maximizes the cost-effectiveness of public and private investment for long-term community benefit.

In short, CPAH synthesizes safe, clean housing with affordability. CPAH is an incredible asset that the cities of Highland Park, Evanston, and Lake Forest are fortunate to benefit from. I am proud to represent Community Partners for Affordable Housing.

HONORING DAVID AND PATRICIA  
NIERENBERG

**HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David and Patricia Nierenberg for the honor of receiving PeaceHealth's Nat Giustina Philanthropy Award. This award was created to honor individuals who have advanced the well-being of our community through the generous donation of their time, talent and resources over many years through support of PeachHealth Medical Centers.

Their generous support and collective service on the PeachHealth Southwest Foundation Board for nearly two decades, has given the Vancouver hospital the opportunity to expand its capacity and serve more residents of Southwest Washington. Their contribution, which focuses primarily on maternal and infant health, helped establish the Holtzman Twins Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and the Patricia Nierenberg Childcare and Early Learning Center. Their generosity has helped construct world-class facilities and establish a scholarship for low-income families to help offset the cost of care at the new center, leading to a more healthy and vibrant community.

I want to thank David and Patricia for their tireless involvement and support of our community. Their contribution is one that will positively impact Southwest Washington for generations to come.

HONORING MR. WIN SHAW

**HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Win Shaw for his long service to the country and to General Dynamics' Gulfstream Aerospace, the largest private employer in the First District of Georgia.

Mr. Win Shaw represented the hard working people of Gulfstream for 20 years beginning in March, 1993. Prior to his career with Gulfstream, Mr. Shaw graduated from Norwich University and was commissioned into the U.S. Army as an Armor officer. Dedicating 29 years of his life to military service, Mr. Shaw served two tours of duty in Vietnam and one tour in Korea. In his last active duty assignment, Mr. Shaw served as Chief of the Army's

Senate Liaison Office for four and a half years. Mr. Shaw retired as a Colonel with many deserved decorations including the Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Soldiers Medal and 3 Bronze Stars with the V device. He is also a graduate of the Army War College. Following his retirement from the U.S. Army, Mr. Shaw joined Westinghouse Electric Corporation for two and a half years.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join Mr. Win Shaw's colleagues, family and friends in celebrating many years of hard work and dedication to our community and our Country.

HONORING DR. RUTH B. LOVE

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career of Dr. Ruth B. Love.

Dr. Love was born in Lawton, Oklahoma, and grew up in Bakersfield, California, where she attended public schools. From a young age, Dr. Love displayed a deep passion for reading, which she transformed into a career in education. Dr. Love received her B.A. in education from San Jose State University, her M.A. in Guidance and Counseling from San Francisco State University, and her Ph.D. in Human Behavior and Psychology from the United States International University.

Dr. Love began her teaching career in Oakland, California. In addition to teaching, which she enjoyed immensely, Dr. Love worked on various projects, at the local, national, and international levels. She served as the Project Director for Operation Crossroads Africa in Ghana. She was also selected for the National Fulbright Program in England, where she taught for a year and was able to travel the world.

Dr. Love also took on various roles at the California State Education Department, where she served in a statewide role as Bureau Chief for Program Development. She went on to join the Federal Office of Education as National Director of the Right to Read Program, and worked with Congress to enact the National Reading Program and other important pieces of legislation.

Eventually, Dr. Love was recruited to serve as Superintendent of the Oakland Unified School District, where her teaching career had begun. She served for nearly seven years, pioneering innovative programs and helping Oakland students achieve national norms on standardized tests. After much consideration, Dr. Love accepted the position of General Superintendent for the Chicago Board of Education, where she oversaw one of the largest school districts in the nation—comprising over 500 schools, 44,000 employees, and a \$2 billion budget.

Prior to her retirement in 2014, Dr. Love was the Founder and President of RBL Enterprises, an education consulting company. Dr. Love traveled the world extensively in this capacity, lecturing and advising on education policy. She also worked for many years as a professor in the Doctorate Programs at San Francisco State University and the University of California, Berkeley.

On a personal note, I have had the privilege to be with Dr. Love in Ghana and witness the

respect and love Ghanaians have for her. She is truly a citizen of the world, and has shared her knowledge and experiences with those who have not had the chance to visit Africa. Many years ago, I met Dr. Love's late mother. I will always remember the love, kindness, and selfless caregiving Dr. Love provided her mother in spite of her busy schedule. She was an inspiration to me as I had the honor to care for my late mother in her golden years.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, Dr. Ruth B. Love, I salute you. I thank you for a lifetime of service and congratulate you on your many achievements. I wish you and your loved ones the very best.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BAY STREET PLAYERS

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize the 40th anniversary of the Bay Street Players at the Historic State Theatre in Eustis, Florida.

Construction on the Historic State Theatre began in 1916, and included one of the largest "photo play" pipe organs in the Southeast to accommodate the latest entertainment of "moving pictures." Throughout the Great Depression, the Theatre also provided chorale and orchestral music programs to help lift the spirits of the community.

By 1975, the building had become vacant and fallen into disrepair, but was rediscovered by local theatre enthusiasts. This group, composed of Deborah Carpenter, Dale Carpenter, Charlene Smith, Lou Tally, Mary Jane Mitenius, and Ed Mitenius became the founding members of the Bay Street Players, which has remained an active part of the community for the past forty years.

It is my pleasure to join the Bay Street Players in commemorating their 40th anniversary and recognizing their founding members. It is truly an honor to serve the residents of Central Florida in the U.S. House of Representatives.

IN RECOGNITION OF ST. PAUL  
AME CHURCH'S 113TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my sincere congratulations to the congregation of St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church in Columbus, Georgia as the church's membership and leadership celebrate a remarkable 113 years. The congregation of St. Paul AME Church will celebrate this very significant anniversary with a celebration on Sunday, April 26, 2015 at the Church in Columbus, Georgia.

Tracing its roots back to the turn of the twentieth century, the church's first cornerstone was laid on April 27, 1902 at Meeler's Hill, a historic neighborhood in Columbus,

Georgia. Under the leadership of Reverend A.C. Linton, a new church family was born. This edifice served as the congregation's place of worship until 1957, when Reverend Fedd and the congregation relinquished control of St. Paul at Meeler's Hill to the City of Columbus for urban renewal. During this time, Mt. Tabor AME Church, Grant Chapel AME Church and Galilee Baptist Church allowed the St. Paul family to hold Sunday services at their locations two Sundays a month.

God answered the congregation members' many prayers on May 25, 1960, when St. Paul broke ground at 1508 South Street in Columbus. Under the leadership of Reverend R. L. Coachman, Sister Callie Jackson turned the first spade of dirt. The church was completed and dedicated on October 9, 1960.

In 1981, God again called St. Paul to relinquish control of the South Street location to the City of Columbus. In October of that year, a groundbreaking ceremony was held at 4900 St. Mary's Road in Columbus. On April 11, 1982, a dedication service for the new location was held under the leadership of Reverend Frank C. Maddox.

Throughout the years, the church would be remodeled and renovated, with new technologies installed. With these aesthetic changes came changes to the church's ministry through the creation of several new committees, programs, and outreach ministries. Moreover, the church has had the honor of hosting several sessions of the Southwest Georgia Annual Conference. The Church takes pride in being a "dangerous" church, for they are armed with the Word of God.

The story of St. Paul AME Church, which began 113 years ago, is truly an inspiring one of the dedication and perseverance of a faithful congregation of people who put all their love and trust in the Lord.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to St. Paul AME in Columbus, Georgia for their long history of coming together through the good and difficult times to praise and worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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HONORING SENATOR ROBERT  
GRIFFIN

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, last week Michigan lost a true statesman: former Senator and State Supreme Court Justice, Robert P. Griffin.

Senator Griffin represented Michigan in the U.S. Senate for more than 20 years, where he set an extraordinary example of honesty and integrity, and held himself and those around him to the highest level of ethical standards.

As his son Judge Richard Griffin said, he always strove to do the right thing—whether no one was watching or the nation was watching—that was simply the kind of person he was.

That quality made Senator Griffin an effective and respected leader, and I was honored to have the opportunity to learn from him firsthand.

Senator Griffin was my first boss, and he taught me the importance of integrity in the political process, of keeping your word and working with members on both sides of the aisle.

He inspired me and countless others, and he spent his life trying to instill in young people the value and importance of serving.

Senator Griffin was a champion for Michigan. He loved our state. And we can all pay tribute to his legacy by striving to serve our state as well as he did.

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HONORING PASTOR H. LEE JORDAN FOR 5 YEARS IN SERVICE TO THE GREATER FAITH CHURCH

**HON. ROBERT J. DOLD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pastor H. Lee Jordan on his 5th anniversary as Pastor at the Greater Faith Church in Waukegan, Illinois. Pastor Jordan became Pastor of the Greater Faith Church on January 20, 2010 after initially beginning his pilgrimage on June 20, 1993.

Since joining the Greater Faith Church 5 years ago, Mr. Speaker, Pastor Jordan has worked tirelessly to serve the Waukegan community. In addition to his service to The Greater Faith Church, Pastor Jordan is a loving father and husband, a community leader, recipient of numerous awards, and sits on the boards of multiple local community organizations.

Mr. Speaker, Pastor Jordan enhances the legacy and integrity of the nationally known church, dedicating himself to promoting spiritual growth. I offer my most sincere congratulations to the Pastor for passing this milestone and faithfully serving the Waukegan community.